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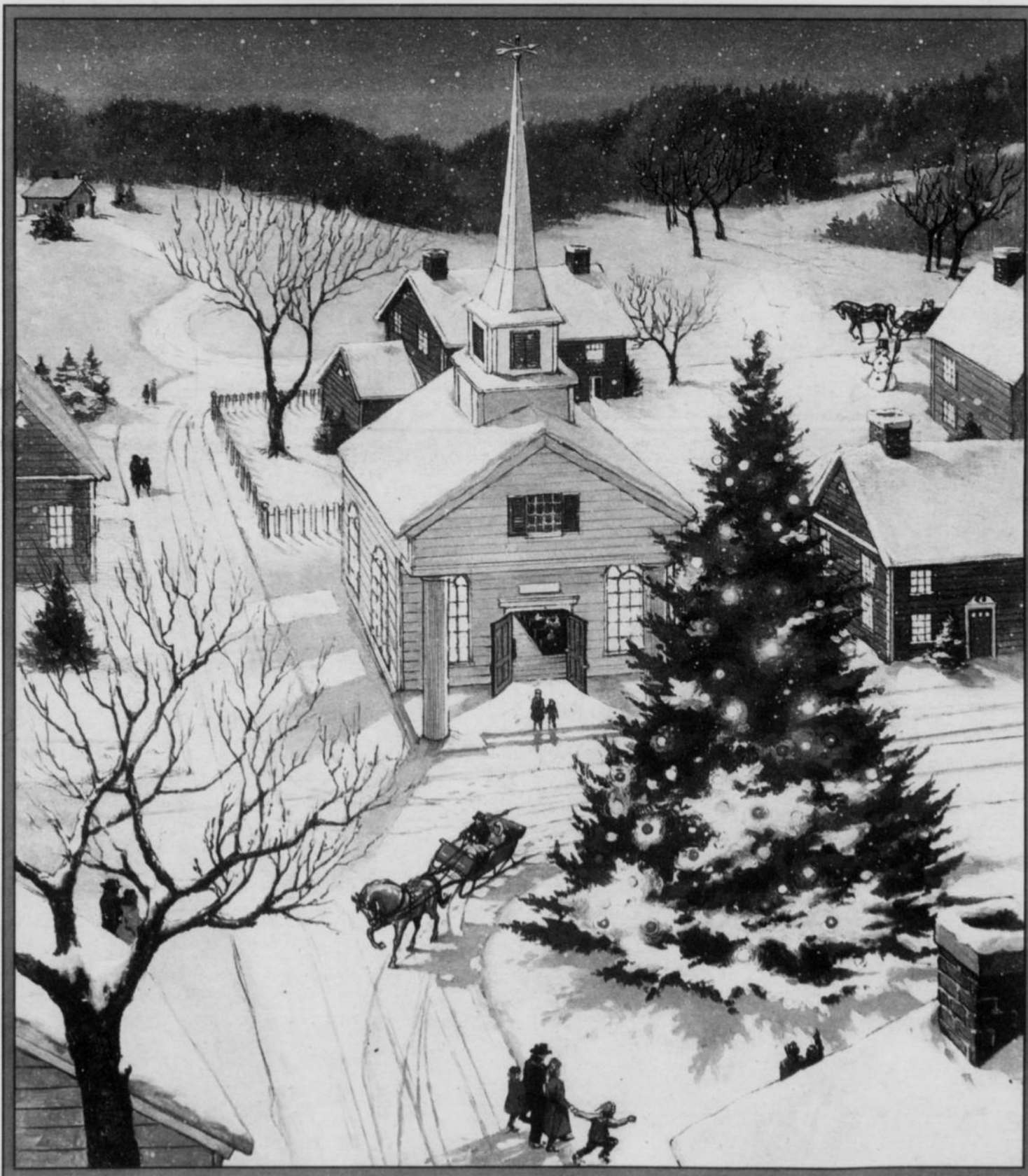
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# In the courts: Local jailed for forging cheques

By Colleen Horrigan and Dan Singleton

## Woman jailed for forging cheques

A 35-year-old woman who passed almost \$3,000 worth of bogus cheques in Sundre has been jailed.

Barbara Ivy entered a guilty plea in Didsbury provincial court on Nov. 8 to six charges of forgery and six charges of uttering a forged document. She was sentenced before Judge W. A. Troughton Dec. 13.

Crown prosecutor Gord Wong told court the accused passed the bad cheques, totalling \$2,909.

"In my opinion you're a menace to the community," said Judge Troughton.

Saying the woman's crimes "required planning and premedi-

tation", the judge jailed the accused for five months.

## Boy jailed for assault

A 17-year-old male young offender has been jailed for 10 months after admitting to the vicious beating of another youth.

The accused, who cannot be named, earlier entered a guilty plea to a charge of assault causing bodily harm. He was sentenced on Monday.

Court heard the accused and several other youths approached the 15-year-old male victim at the Didsbury Subway on Dec. 2, 1998, challenging the victim to a fight.

The group then moved outside where the accused kicked and punched the victim in the head, neck and body.

The victim required hospitalization after suffering a con-

cussion, bleeding head and nose, and bruising.

The accused had past convictions in 1995, 1996 and 1997 for assault.

Citing the boy's record, Judge Troughton called the latest assault an "extremely serious one." He sentenced the accused to four months closed custody, six months open custody.

Following court the victim said, "I'm glad it's dealt with."

The accused was also handed 18 months probation.

## Crossfield man fined for driving drunk

A 21-year-old admitted his guilt to charges of having a blood alcohol level over 80 mg and failing to appear in Didsbury provincial court Dec. 15.

Scott Sackett was charged as a result of incidents that took

place on May 15, 1999 in Carstairs. Crown prosecutor Gord Wong told the court that police pulled over the accused while he was driving and noted signs of impairment. They measured 180 mg and 190 mg of alcohol in his blood with two breathalyser tests.

Sackett then failed to show up to court for his first scheduled appearance.

Judge Bruce Fraser said the high blood alcohol level was an aggravating factor in this case and reminded the accused that if the offence would have occurred after July 1, the minimum penalties would be much harsher.

"I would expect people to make a mistake once in their life," the judge told Sackett, "but expect you won't be back here again." Because the accused has no previous record, the judge sentenced him rather leniently.

Sackett was fined \$600 for the charge of over .08 and \$100 for failing to appear. He was also handed \$90 in victim fine surcharges and a six month driving prohibition.

## Boy faces numerous charges

In youth court, an Olds youth changed his previous not guilty pleas to guilty for a number of charges including break and enter, three counts of theft, possession of a controlled sub-

stance, possession of stolen property, and failing to comply. Judge Fraser ordered an updated predisposition report be submitted on the accused's sentencing day, Feb. 23, 2000.

## Youth breaches probation

A boy caught under the influence of alcohol was in breach of his probation, prosecutor Gord Wong told the Didsbury provincial youth court.

The male, who is now 18 but was 17 at the time of offence, was within days of ending his term of probation, the court heard. He was out with friends when the car he was in was pulled over by police.

"I'm sorry... I should've waited until my probation was completely over before I went out and had fun," the accused said.

Judge Fraser handed the accused a \$150 fine and a \$20 victim fine surcharge, telling him "you're an adult now and you're going to be facing adult fines if you get in trouble again."

# New toll-free emergency assistance line for CPR

Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) is putting the final touches on a system-wide, toll-free emergency assistance hotline program, with installation of signs displaying its 1-800 number at all CPR public level crossings in Central and Western Canada and the Midwest United States.

As the final stage in its \$600,000 Safe Passage Program, CPR is currently completing the installation of signs displaying a toll-free number: 1-800-716-9132, for use by pedestrians or motorists in the event of emergencies.

When completed, in about eight weeks from now, two signs will be on display at each of the railway's approximately 10,000 public level crossings in parts of Canada and the U.S.

"The Safe Passage program provides members of the public with toll-free access to the CPR Police service's 24-hour communications centre, allowing us to respond more quickly to emergencies. Motorists, cyclists, or pedestrians will have the information they need to contact us immediately in the event of an incident or unsafe situation at any crossing on our Canadian and U.S. network," said Gerry Moody, chief of the railway's police force.

"Coupled with our extensive public safety awareness programs, Safe Passage will help prevent accidents at road-rail intersections and will improve crossing safety awareness," Moody said.

Yellow, weather-proof stickers bearing the toll-free number and crossing identification num-

bers unique to each location are being applied to existing signals and sign posts at CPR crossings.

It is expected that incidents can be prevented or reported more quickly as a result of the new signs, especially as cellular phone use becomes more commonplace, according to Moody.

He added that members of the public are encouraged to report all potential or actual emergency situations and to report damaged or malfunctioning signals and crossing warning devices.

The CPR Police Service has

direct links with local, provincial, state and federal police forces and with emergency response officials across its network.

Canadian Pacific Railway, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Limited, provides rail transportation services over a 24,000 km network reaching most of the principal centres of Canada, as well as the U.S. CPR has assets of approximately \$8.4 billion, annual revenues of approximately \$3.5 billion, and approximately 19,000 employees in Canada, the U.S. and overseas.

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The Didsbury  
**REVIEW**

Volume 13 Number 36

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**Nicole Smith**  
Editor



**Joelle Snyder**  
Advertising Design



# Tremendous support received concerning hospital

By Nicole Smith

Yet another meeting was held last Thursday evening concerning the future of the Didsbury hospital.

In attendance at this session were Mayor Ray Lea, MLA Richard Marz, members from Mountain View County council including Reeve Ian Harvie, Carstairs Mayor Richard Dais, members of the HA5 board including chair Terry Peterson, and many other dignitaries from around the county.

The meeting was held in the Town of Didsbury council chambers and it was an open dialogue for a couple of hours in the hopes of reaching some common ground concerning the hospital.

Recently, a meeting was held by the health authority and plans were heard that the Didsbury hospital may become an exclusively long-term care facility, and our emergency and acute care services would be moved to Olds.

This announcement created quite a fury of letter-writing and rumours around town, even though nothing final has been decided on.

Didsbury Mayor Ray Lea said that last week's meeting was rather effective and hopes that the HA5 board understands people's concerns.

"It was a good meeting ... everybody was behind us," said Lea about the support received from communities throughout the county.

"On my behalf, I was quite pleased with the support we had from the surrounding communities and the understanding that we are a community hospital," Lea said.

"It encompasses a big area and it's quite apparent that we have the same concerns."

Lea encourages the residents of Didsbury to continue utilizing our hospital and the doctors within it.

"We've got a good quality hospital and a good quality set of doctors and I think it's time we start centering on them," he said.

In the third week in January, Lea and others from

around the county will be heading up to Drumheller for the health authority's monthly board meeting and making a presentation to them concerning the hospital.

Lea says that the Town of Didsbury is planning on conducting public meetings early in the new year, so that the residents of Didsbury and area may have a chance to have their voices heard. He says that he and council plan to take people's questions to the health authority.

Mountain View County Reeve Ian Harvie was also pleased with the turnout at the meeting, although he says he would have liked to have had some administration members from HA5 in attendance.

"It was a good starting point," said Harvie.

MLA Richard Marz is hoping that the health authority sticks to their plans of hearing public input before making a decision on the hospital's future.

"There seems to be a degree of comfort for the people that were there that (HA5) board chair Terry Peterson added a clause to the news release," said Marz, of the press release that was issued after the meeting.

"I respect that [the health authority is planning open meetings] and I'm hoping to see some positive movement by the end of January and, if I don't, I'll be discussing it with the board."

Marz says that he has spoken to David Thompson Health Region chair, Jean Graham, and reports that she will not be interested in this proposal if public input has not been heard on the issue first.

Marz was also pleased with the turnout at last Thursday's meeting and hopes that more discussion is had before a final decision is made.

"There seems to be a willingness by parties at the meeting to let the board bring forth more information and do some consultations before they make a decision on the issue," Marz concluded.

## Business as usual for Health Authority

With very little time left before the new millennium, Health Authority 5 has completed its planning effort. The Health Authority is optimistic that Y2K will not present any serious problems to their operation.

Testing of critical equipment and building systems has been completed and any necessary repairs identified have been carried out. In the event that problems do occur, all departments within all facilities have developed contingency plans to deal with them. These plans have been tested in all sites with the cooperation of their respective municipalities.

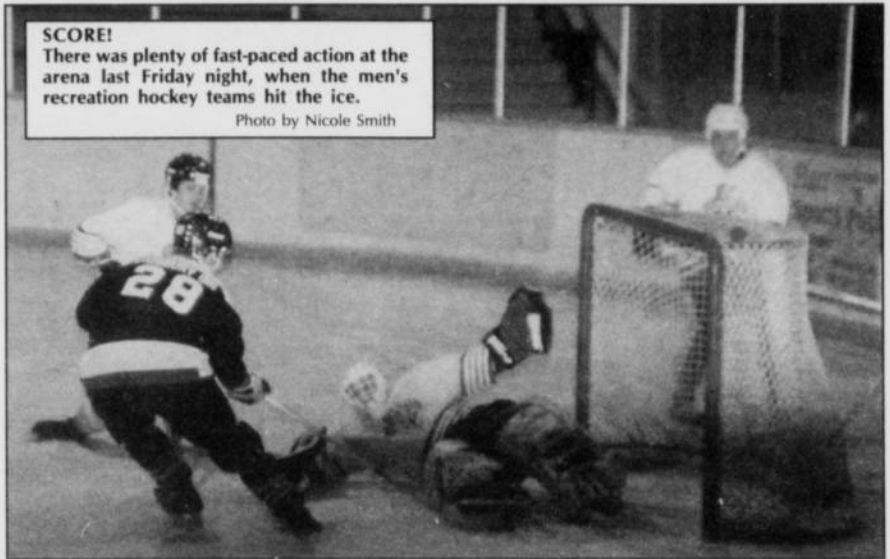
Staff have been informed, as have many clients, of steps that they can take in the event of a disruption of services.

It is hoped that everyone will enjoy a safe and Happy New Year's Eve.

### SCORE!

There was plenty of fast-paced action at the arena last Friday night, when the men's recreation hockey teams hit the ice.

Photo by Nicole Smith



## RHA5 board chair agrees to hear public input

### A press release concerning the Didsbury hospital

Recent news items in Didsbury, Olds, and other communities have speculated at length about changes to the Didsbury District Health Services.

These are the facts to date from the Board of Health Region 5.

The responsibility of the Board is to provide quality health services.

Unfortunately to provide quality of any sort requires examination of the current situation.

The future direction of the Didsbury and District Health Centre has been examined on more than one occasion including one study commissioned by then community leaders. The outcome unfortunately has been the same each time.

The Board of Region 5 has

advised its staff that options for acute care delivery, including a relationship with the Olds Hospital are being considered.

The Management team has been asked to proceed with an examination of services with an eye to both acute and long-term care services. The board is expecting Management to recommend the best course of action for the provision of quality health services.

The basic question from a HEALTH only perspective is to examine the best use of two acute care facilities operating nine miles apart, particularly when the Olds facility offers more doctors and more services.

The Board intends to communicate with the community in early January and to work with focus groups to better understand their needs. Later in Janu-

ary the key questions, concerns and answers will be clarified and the board can get down to making decisions on the best course of action. The Board will likely form their decision in late February or March depending on the information and answers they find.

The Board would like to assure the community that no decisions will be made without public consultation and support from the communities within the Didsbury and District Health Region.

This press release was signed by:

Richard Marz, MLA  
Ray Lea, Mayor of Didsbury  
Richard Dais, Mayor of Carstairs

Ian Harvie, Reeve, Mountain View County

Terry Peterson, Chair, Health Authority 5

## Solid Waste Authority transfer stations thrown into reverse

By Colleen Horrigan

An attempt by Sundre representatives to have the plans for new transfer stations in Didsbury and Carstairs reversed is succeeding.

The motion for the two transfer stations was passed at a meeting of the Mountain View Regional Solid Waste Authority in mid-November, which meant that once approval was given by Alberta Environment, the stations would be placed.

The following week, a letter was sent to the authority from the Sundre representative stating that he didn't vote on the issue and wanted the decision revoked. Because it was understood that only five out of the six voting board members had to vote in favour for the decision to be valid, remaining board members originally decided to ignore this request.

Brought up again at the most recent Solid Waste Authority meeting Dec. 17, it was decided that a unanimous vote was

needed and so the decision is now in limbo.

Board chair, Don Watt, made a motion for the transfer stations to be voted on again since it appeared there was representation from each municipality present.

The representative from Sundre who failed to vote and sent the letter was not present at the Dec. 17 meeting, but a different representative, Joe Henze, was there instead. Henze told the board that he had very clear instructions from Sundre Town Council to vote against the transfer stations, because "they feel it is a waste of taxpayers' money" to have two transfer stations within that distance.

Carstairs representative Tony Martens said "nobody had any input at all into the Sundre transfer station."

Martens said that he found it very disconcerting that a representative from the edge of the county, who would not have as much knowledge of the issue as

someone from Didsbury or Carstairs, would hold the progress at bay.

"If Carstairs would have known that Sundre would now be causing problems, we would not have let those funds be given to you for the transfer station in Sundre," Martens said.

Henze said there seemed to be some confusion on the part of Sundre Town Council as to exactly where the transfer stations were to be placed, and that maybe their "no" vote was a result of misunderstandings.

"I know I'm putting this board in an awkward position...I'm willing to take it back [to Sundre Town Council] and vote next time, but my instructions today are very straightforward," Henze told the board.

Board members then agreed to table the motion until next meeting of the Solid Waste Authority on Jan. 4, and got verbal assurance from Henze that he will be present and ready to vote at that time.

# OPINIONS EDITORIAL

## Seasons Greetings



Nicole  
SMITH

Only three more sleeps until Christmas!

It's hard to believe that Christmas has come so quickly this year. It's even harder to believe that in just ten short days we will be entering a new millennium.

In the next couple of days, many of us will be heading home to celebrate the holidays with our families, or our families will be heading here to celebrate with us.

Our vehicles will be loaded down

with the many gifts we will present to our loved ones and our hearts will be beaming with the excitement that only Christmas can bring. I pray that everyone on the road in the next week has a safe drive and arrives at their destination happy and healthy.

Many of us get so caught up in the glitter of bows and wrapping paper, that we sometimes forget that we have more to be thankful for than a new sweater, a toy or a game.

As I approach this blessed day, I am reflecting once again on this past year, and I find that I have many things to be thankful for.

I am thankful for the family I have. That we are all alive and well and together. I appreciate the closeness that has developed over the past couple of years. I also give thanks for seeing a happy light at the end of a long tunnel of grief for my family.

I am thankful for finding true love. I never expected to find it so soon, but revel in every day I get to spend in the arms of such a wonderful person.

I am thankful for my job and for the terrific people that I get the opportunity to work with every day. I have never experienced the pleasure of going to work each morning and knowing that I get to spend the day with true friends.

Also, it's wonderful to be the editor of a newspaper in a town such as Didsbury. The people here are so connected to this newspaper, that it often seems that they are woven into the words that I write each week.

As we so quickly approach Christmas Day, I encourage you to reflect on what you have to be thankful for in your lives. Even if hard times have fallen on you and yours, there is always a glimmer of hope somewhere deep inside. Seize it and let it grow.

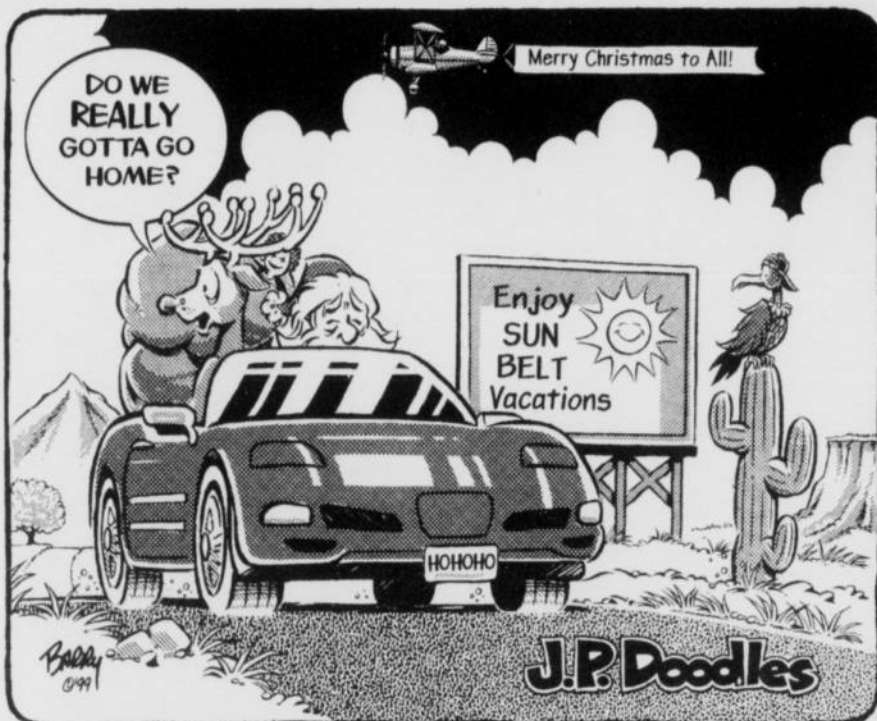
With the millennium coming so soon, many of us will be busy with parties and celebrations, or burying our money in our backyards and preparing our bomb shelters.

I believe that the millennium is a perfect time for resolutions. Why not start this new era with a solid plan of what you want for yourselves and those around you. What better time to better yourself?

As I wrap up this last editorial of the 20th century, I say this. To you and all yours, we here at the Review wish you the most splendid of holiday seasons. Have a safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year.

**Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year from  
all of us at  
the Didsbury Review!**

*The opinions expressed on this page are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper or the publisher.*



RUDOLPH PONDER'S LIFE AS A SNOWBIRD...

## Santa announces he's moving

By Myron Thompson, MP  
Wildrose

Santa Claus recently announced that he will be moving his entire Canadian operation to the South Pole early next year.

The reason? The excessively high taxes imposed by Finance Minister Paul Martin and the Chretien Government.

An obviously distraught Claus told a packed news conference that all aspects of his operation - income, payroll, purchases, manufacturing, and distribution - are overtaxed and he is simply not prepared to pay anymore.

"It is becoming impossible to get the elves to work overtime," said Claus. "Martin's payroll taxes rip their paycheques in half. And the toy department is being priced out of existence by the combination of income and sales taxes."

"The excessive burden of provincial taxes, federal excise taxes, and GST are also driving the price of reindeer fuel out of sight," said R.N. Rudolph, chief of Claus's transportation division. "Our accountants say the best way to escape Martin's tax juggernaut is to move to the South Pole and to operate Santa's sleigh under a Liberian flag

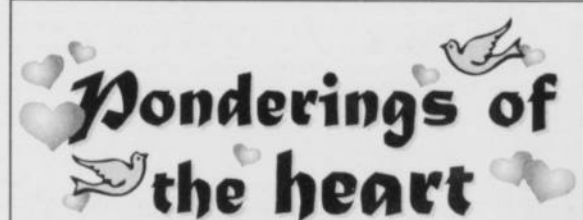
of convenience. This is exactly what we intend to do!"

"Our agenda has always been a Children's Agenda," said a tearful Mrs. Claus. "Once Martin's taxes have shut us down, who are the kids going to write to at Christmas time - Revenue Canada?"

Sources close to Claus say that Santa has been contemplating the announced move for months but was finally driven

to act by recent rumours out of Ottawa that Martin will be imposing a Pole Tax in his forthcoming budget. (The Claus operation is the only Canadian enterprise operating out of the North Pole.)

"It's the last straw," fumed Claus. "I'm out of here! And unless Martin offers broad-based tax relief, soon the Easter bunny and the Tooth Fairy will be gone too."



## The Christmas Story

By Margaret Fradley

How we look forward to, and love to hear the familiar Christmas stories of the birth of Jesus. We love to hear it, told and retold, although we know the stories so well. The carols we sing also bring to mind the well-loved stories.

Which is our favourite Christmas story? Perhaps it is that Jesus was revealed to the Wise Men as they followed the star in the east, in their search for the baby born in a manger in Bethlehem. They came worshipping the Christ Child and bringing costly gifts.

Or it could be the story of the humble shepherds, on a hillside who were abiding, being just where they were supposed to be, and doing what they were meant to be doing - tending their sheep. When they had the visitation of an angel who announced the birth of the baby Jesus and they heard the angelic chorus, they too went out to see this thing which had come to pass.

We may, each one, be searching in our hearts for a deeper meaning, a deeper revelation, and in our individual search we too will be rewarded with a fresh insight.

We may well be faithfully and humbly serving, just where we are meant to be, and doing what we ought to be doing, but each one can experience the coming of the Christ child and what it means to us in a deeper way.

May the Lord bless each one of us this Christmas season.



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## OPINIONS EDITORIAL

### Alberta's fiscal plan paying off



**Richard  
MARZ**  
MLA

With provincial revenues beyond what was projected in Budget '99, the Alberta government has been able to fast-track its fiscal plan, addressing spending priorities to the tune of \$1.4 billion, accelerating the tax plan by a full year, and more than doubling the debt payment to \$1.1 billion.

"The hard work of Albertans is paying off. The citizens of this province stuck with us while we got our fiscal house in order, and now we're in the financial position

to put money back in their pockets, their schools and hospitals, and their highways. All this, while we continue addressing debt paydown," Provincial Treasurer Stockwell Day said, announcing the province's Second Quarter financial results on Monday.

The additional revenue, plus the initial economic cushion, allowed the province to address fiscal priorities beyond those priorities outlined in budget:

- \$600 million has been dedicated to infrastructure projects across the province,
- \$232 million is earmarked for disaster relief for farmers,
- \$216 million will go to health authorities to pay off debt and deficits, address province-wide services and one time project spending,
- \$151 million goes to school boards to pay off debt and deficits and other one-time spending needs,
- \$135 million to fight forest fires, and
- a net increase of \$79 million in other areas to address priorities such as children's services, services for persons with developmental disabilities, and Hepatitis C initiatives.

Also, the government will put \$27 million towards accelerating the elimination of the 8% deficit elimination surtax to Jan. 1, 2000, and will move the entire new tax plan ahead a year to Jan. 1, 2001.

With priority program needs addressed and tax reductions in place, the province is left with \$1.445 billion as an economic cushion.

Of this, \$1.1 billion will go to the province's debt and about \$200 million will be used to increase the province's financial assets.

The remaining \$80 million could be used to address issues that arise in the third and fourth quarter.

"This quarterly report shows our government is committed to meeting the demands of our growing population, while continuing to foster the economic growth that's attracted the 60,000 new Albertans. Proof that our plan is working is in the 45,000 jobs that have been created so far this year and average weekly earnings are up," Day said.

### Cowards and killing grounds - like shooting fish in a barrel

The Humane Society of Canada has been carrying out a four-year investigation into killing grounds located in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and other parts of Canada. "In our opinion, these macho men are nothing more than brutal cowards. Their lives are so empty that the only way they can feel better is by shooting a helpless wild animal trapped inside a fenced-in compound," said a disgusted Al Hickey, Western Regional Director for The Humane Society of Canada.

For example it costs \$20,000 to blow a gaping hole in a big-horn sheep. You can kill a penned up musk ox for \$10,000. Some of the animals are even listed as endangered species on the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species to which Canada is a long time signatory.

"We are opposed to the recreational killing of wildlife in all of its forms," said O'Sullivan. "A recent study for the Canadian Wildlife Service shows that millions of people share our views on this issue."

Less than 5% of all Canadians hunt and this number is becoming smaller with each passing year.

The animals come from zoos and game farms and are obtained through a series of brokers who buy and sell wildlife. In response to a public backlash, some zoos have said they have a policy on paper not to

sell wildlife for canned hunts - however, they also admit that this policy is virtually impossible to enforce once they sell the animal.

For example, the Metro Toronto Zoo sold three sable antelope to a game farm in Alberta, which in turn sold them to a killing ground in Texas.

British Columbia allows the slaughter of fenced-in wildlife. Saskatchewan allows the slaughter of deer and elk in penned up enclosures. "Alberta allows the killing of bison and wild boar in this way. Ranchers want to be able to include elk and deer so these wackos can slaughter elk and deer for between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a pop," said O'Sullivan.

This in turn is opposed by another group of recreational wildlife killers who feel that it is only fair to kill these animals in the wild "We can certainly see their point of view," O'Sullivan said sarcastically: "These guys drive into the woods with their trucks and then some of them rely on the use of baited sites. Then using telescopic sights fitted onto a high-powered rifle they kill a wild animal using a bullet traveling at over 1,200 feet per second. I'm sure that the wild animal really appreciates that these guys go that extra distance to be good sportsmen," he said.

"We're thinking of asking government health care agencies to establish a special fund

for recreational wildlife killers. Because in my opinion, these people have a bolt loose in their head," he said.

And according to government wildlife agencies - who are paid to protect wildlife - not sanction their slaughter - all of this is perfectly legal.

"We could frankly care less what a bunch of moronic politicians and civil servants rubber stamp. It's just plain wrong to pen up wildlife and then shoot them like fish in a barrel. Waiting for politicians and bureaucrats to clean up this mess is a waste of time," said an angry O'Sullivan.

For example, despite being part of a threatened species, several Wood Bison sold by Alberta's Elk Island National Park have ended up in these kinds of killing grounds.

And yet, a survey by Environment Canada found that 95% of Canadians don't hunt. Another report showed that there was an average annual decrease of 17,558 hunters buying permits to hunt game birds.

The Humane Society of Canada intends to develop new and creative ways to end this wanton slaughter and it isn't going to involve sitting around a table talking with governments that already allow this kind of wanton slaughter.

For more information, contact Al Hickey or Michael O'Sullivan toll free at 1-800-641-KIND or visit their website at [www.humaneociety.com](http://www.humaneociety.com).

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## Martin "talks the talk", will he "walk the walk?"

By **Walter Robinson,**  
Federal Director

Now that the economic statement hoopla has subsided, only one question remains. Will Paul Martin deliver on his tax cut promises? Or will the Prime Minister take hold of the reins and return us to the 1970s with a massive government shopping spree?

Since the Liberals returned to power in 1993, an uneasy entente has existed between these two men at the Cabinet table. But with billions of extra tax dollars pouring into Ottawa - some \$95 billion over the next five years - the differences between Chretien and Martin have surfaced.

At a fundraising dinner in Ottawa, Mr. Chretien solidified his anti-tax cut position by telling those who seek massive relief in the tax burden that

Canada is not for them. On the other hand, Mr. Martin has been more conciliatory and respectful of those who wish to see their hard-earned money transferred from Ottawa's coffers back to their own bank accounts.

"Mr. Chairman, for this government, the need for tax relief is not a matter of debate," Martin stated before the House of Commons Finance Committee. "It is not just one option among many. It is not secondary. It is not something only to be considered once the list of spending proposals is exhausted. Tax reduction is essential to secure strong sustained economic growth." Martin went on to say "...there are many reasons for reducing taxes. Most are well-known and do not need repeating here. However, there is one I would like to mention because

it is too frequently overlooked - it is quite simply that Canadians are entitled to keep more of the money they earn. After all, they worked for it. It's theirs."

So where should Mr. Martin begin to cut taxes? We believe that our three-part plan for tax cuts fits the bill. To begin, Mr. Martin must re-index the tax system to inflation. This would be the most fundamental change to our tax system in over a decade.

Eliminating "bracket creep" (the non-indexation of tax brackets) represents a legacy initiative that would erase the punitive, mean-spirited and insidious feature in our tax system which penalizes taxpayers whose incomes merely keep pace with inflation.

The OECD estimates that 20% of Canadian taxpayers have been pushed onto the tax

rolls or into higher tax brackets due to bracket creep. And CTF calculations reveal that over \$10 billion of the \$75 billion in personal income taxes that Ottawa collects is courtesy of the decade-long effects of bracket creep.

Fully re-indexing the tax system to inflation represents the intersection of good fiscal policy. Moreover, such a move would be applauded by a plethora of advocacy groups across the political spectrum. It would be a measure that benefits all taxpayers but a disproportionate and long-overdue olive branch to beleaguered low-income and lower middle-income Canadians.

Second, the 5% federal surtax must be eliminated. Deficit surtaxes (3% and 5%) were instituted by the Mulroney government to help them elimi-

nate the deficit. The deficit has been vanquished, the 3% surtax eliminated, so why is the 5% surtax still applied to income earners at \$65,000 and above?

Finally, Mr. Martin should provide across-the-board tax relief through a 10% cut in income taxes. Such a cut could be accomplished by reducing the federal tax rates of 17, 26 and 29% to 15, 24 and 27%.

But make no mistake about it, putting an end to bracket creep and re-indexing the tax system is priority number one when it comes to tax relief in the millennium budget. If you want to learn more, surf by the CTF website at [www.taxpayer.com](http://www.taxpayer.com) and join our "billion byte march" for tax cuts. We can only hope the Prime Minister allows Mr. Martin to back his tax cut talk with a tax cut walk!

# OPINIONS EDITORIAL

## Millennium Madness

By Stephen Harper,  
President of The National  
Citizens' Coalition

Traditionally the arrival of a new year is a time for self-improvement resolutions.

And now that we are approaching a new millennium, wouldn't it be nice if our federal government made a few resolutions of its own, such as "We will not waste taxpayers' money"?

Unfortunately, that's not going to happen.

In fact, the federal government is actually using the approaching new millennium as an excuse to spend our tax dollars.

They are doing it with something called the Canada Millennium Partnership Program (CMPP).

According to government propaganda this project is supposed to celebrate the new millennium while promoting the environment, youth, arts and culture. Its theme is "Sharing the Memory, Sharing the Dream."

"Wasting our Time, Wasting Your Money" is more like it. In fact, under this program the government has earmarked about \$144 million to subsidize projects that range from the ludicrous to the bizarre.

For instance, the Millennium Fund has allocated \$51,000 to help finance something called "Spirituality Without Frontiers". This project envisions assembling artists from different communities—Hindu dancers, a Jewish singer, Buddhist Monks, a Quebec artist, etc. - together in "holy places" so they can "celebrate the fraternity that unites our cosmopolitan community and promote the union of peoples and cultures". Sounds nice but couldn't they just meet in a bar somewhere and do the same thing without tax dollars?

And of course, the Millennium Fund would not be a true government operation if it didn't reward special interest groups.

That's why it's granting the Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada \$32,725 to produce a video that explores the impact of trade unions on the lives of Canadian workers. Don't expect to find the finished product at Blockbusters.

The Millennium fund is also paying out \$68,000 to help finance an art exhibit featuring "flowers of the Bible". This is supposed to help communicate the message that humans are

inextricably linked to their environment. What it really communicates, of course, is that too many artists are inextricably linked to government hand outs.

The Millennium program is also chipping in a cool million tax dollars to subsidize "War Child", a program intended to "enlighten and educate" Canadian youth about ways to help the less fortunate from other countries.

War Child will kick off with a taxpayer subsidized rock concert in Toronto. Yes indeed, a rock concert is just what the shell shocked children in Chechnya need right now.

Then there's the \$65,140 going to beautify a golf course, the \$50,025 to hang a stained glass window in New Brunswick, the \$16,450 for a quilting bee. The list goes on and on. Altogether, the government's Millennium Fund is helping to finance nearly 1,000 different projects.

Hopefully all this spending is not a sign of what's to come in the new century. Otherwise, taxpayers should forget about cracking open the champagne bottles on New Year's Eve and grab their wallets instead.

## Taking advantage

From Canadian Union of Public Employees

The principles for privatizing public health care released by Klein will allow private clinics to take advantage of the sick and vulnerable. Private clinics, of course, will offer patients basic publicly insured services. These clinics, however, will also try to sell extra services, such as a better lens for cataract surgery, for an additional cost.

"Offering patients preferential treatment for an extra cost is two tier medicine whether you jumped a queue or not," said Terry Mutton, President of CUPE Alberta's 28,000 members. "If Klein is so worried about the suffering of Albertans that he caused by cutting funding, why doesn't he reopen the hospitals and hospital beds he closed?"

Patients will be inundated with sales pitches to spend more when they are the most vulnerable. They will be offered expensive treatments for an extra \$1,000 or more. Those with money will get better care from private clinics no matter what the Premier promises.

Private health care is the most expensive option available to the government, as the American and British experiences demonstrate. Studies both here and in the United States show that the cheapest option is a public system.

"For Klein to say that opponents of private health care want to prolong the suffering of Albertans is both cynical and arrogant," said Mutton. "The waiting lists and the loss of doctors, nurses and skilled health care support staff are the direct result of Klein's health care cuts. He lied to us in 1994 when he promised that his cuts wouldn't hurt health care. Why would we believe him now?"

CUPE says that Ralph Klein should immediately

- reopen the hospital beds and wings he closed,
- reopen the hospitals he closed,
- hire back the thousands of health care employees he fired,
- rebuild the Calgary hospital he blew up.

CUPE spokespersons wonder why Klein is risking his political future just to secure lucrative contracts for private corporations like HRG.

We Wish You  
A Merry  
Christmas  
And a Happy  
New Year!

Many thanks for  
your loyal support.

From Ross & Karen  
**Campbell's**  
Plumbing & Heating  
Didsbury  
335-4745 Bus.  
335-3858 Res.

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
to  
Everyone  
from

**DRAGON PALACE**  
RESTAURANT

Wahlee Wong

Closed Dec. 25 & 26 **335-4611**

A TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS

Wishing You A Home  
Filled With Love  
And Laughter  
- All The Good Things  
Of The Season!

From Gerry, Barb, Pam, Lisa, Dalene & Kim  
**Mountain View Credit Union**  
Didsbury We belong to you.

Best  
Wishes  
to all  
our  
friends  
throughout  
the holiday  
season!

From all the Management  
and Staff at

**Sun Country  
Garden Centre**

7th Ave. at 23rd Street, Didsbury  
**335-9810**

Swing  
Into a New  
Century!

Have a fantastic  
Christmas and a happy  
healthy 2000. Thank you for  
your friendship and support.  
We're always happy to serve  
you, and look forward to  
serving you again in

**SHEAR  
ECSTASY**

CLOSED Dec. 25 - 28  
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**Warmest  
Wishes!**

**Didsbury Esso-Food  
And Car Wash**  
**335-8511**

Harley and Wendy, Bev J., Bonnie, Karen,  
Joyce, Ian, Megan, J.D., Bev F., Denise & Colin

May your health be  
cheered by the presence  
of dear ones!

Christmas Hours:  
Dec. 24, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Dec. 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Dec. 26, 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.



# FROM THE MAILBAG

## Notes from Nigeria

Dan and Janet Snyder are Didsburians who are missionaries in Nigeria. They are working at a school in Jos, Nigeria for the Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, and Dan is teaching math and English, while Janet runs the library for the whole school. Both have been in the country periodically doing the mission work since the late 70s. The couple met while working in Nigeria and married in December 1995. Their latest excursion set out on May 15 last year and they will return to Didsbury in May of 2000 for a three month furlough. They will return to Nigeria and will remain there until 2006. The Snyders send weekly letters to their family telling about their day to day experiences, and we at the Review believe it will be of interest to our readers.

### Dear Friends,

Exams! What a lot of work for both students and teachers! Obviously we feel they are worth the work or else we wouldn't subject ourselves and our students to the process. Now they are done, and everyone is less stressed. The results will be out next week, but many of the students know how they did because individual teachers have told them. Now we can relax and hopefully regain a proper perspective of what it is we hope to accomplish at Hillcrest.

As usual, this acting bachelor has eaten out most evenings. Thursday night was a staff celebration of the end of the semester. We ate at the Yelwa Club, in nearby Bukuru. The lady in charge of the Club has a daughter at Hillcrest and has been very helpful. The meal was a Christmas buffet, very well-prepared and served. About twenty of us went and spent about two and a half hours eating and chatting.

Wednesday night, the elementary students presented an excellent program about carriers of the light. The theme was simple and easy to follow through the characters involved in the Christmas story. The challenge given was for us to be carriers of the light of Christmas in our daily lives.

Wednesday night the voltage was high. It's supposed to be between 220 and 240 volts, but about 10 p.m. it was about 277 volts. Fortunately we have recently purchased a voltage stabilizer for the whole house, and this brought the voltage down to 235. However, the stabilizer still allows spikes and surges, so we run the computer using an inverter. Any time one tells about the 'wonderful' electricity one has, another story emerges. I told our computer teacher about the 277 volts. He was unimpressed. It seems that the voltage at his house was so high that it burned up his NEPA meter! Now he has to pay about \$200 to the suppliers to replace his meter, or else he'll have no electricity.

The telephones were out of service for a couple of days over the weekend, so e-mail service was suspended. Also, Janet couldn't get through from California. She was supposed to go to Disneyland on Thursday, our anniversary. We talked about it last week, and she declared that Disneyland was much better than Hillcrest's closing assembly, also taking place on Thursday. I'd have to agree. The phones seem to be working now, so I'll send this before they quit again. Y2K is coming!

Sincerely,

Dan and Janet

## A personal plea

Dear Prime Minister,

Having spent last week away from the House attending six public meetings on the western farm crisis, two of which were with the Standing Committee on Agriculture, there is no doubt that farmers in Manitoba are fighting for their economic lives. In the short term, farmers need cash right now which can be paid out across the board as disaster relief, which would not contravene WTO. (This is a safety net issue).

The Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, John Harvard, stated that AIDA has failed the farmers of Manitoba. Other Liberal committee members have echoed the same. All the witnesses have consistently presented the same message, that is, AIDA has failed miserably. No one in Ottawa is listening and in the short term a cash injection is necessary to save agriculture.

With Christmas around the corner, there is little to celebrate in rural communities. Farming is the backbone of the rural economy. When farmers have no cash in their pockets, everyone suffers. This distinctive part of Canadian culture is under attack. The culture of small town Canada will disappear if farmers are taken off the land. This current farm disaster will do exactly that if farm disaster aid isn't paid out to these farmers.

You have said many times that Canada's greatness and strength is seen in how Canadians help each other in times of need, i.e. ice storm and flooding in Quebec and Manitoba. Mr. Prime Minister, I am pleading with you to help western farmers who need your help at this time. I am afraid that if western farmers are ignored, you and your government will have re-ignited the call for western separation. I hope this does not happen.

Sincerely,

Inky Mark, MP, Dauphin-Swan River

## Politicians pay attention

Dear Editor,

It goes without saying that politicians who govern these days pay close attention to public opinion, especially the opinions and moods of the people who give them power which is the cocaine of politics.

Jean Chretien and his Liberal colleagues in Ottawa get their power fix largely from eastern voters. That means that anyone trying to get something - especially a lot of money - out of the federal government better have eastern public opinion on their side.

Judging by the reception westerners got from the Prime Minister when they trekked down to Ottawa to ask for a \$1 billion in farm aid, eastern public opinion may be sympathetic but it is not sufficiently moved to send train loads of cash out west.

In my view, western farmers must learn about a lobbying tool which public relations experts call "strategic communications" and then use it to shift eastern public opinion in their favour.

The technique is to break down your target audiences into "groups." Eastern politicians would be one "group." Another

would be eastern taxpayers, possibly divided into sub-groups of men and women.

The jobs of numerous port workers and railway employees are linked directly to western agriculture. They are two more groups.

Farmers then have to send targeted messages through the news media and possibly advertising designed specifically for each particular group and in language each easily understands.

Talking to Torontonians about "input costs" is a waste of time. The same is probably true of telling city people that we love to farm as did our father and his father. A Montrealese is likely to respond with: "So what?"

So why should a taxpayer working on Bay Street or living in suburban Quebec City worry whether some farmers half-a-country away on the Prairies are going broke?

Well, there are many reasons. Numerous easterners own shares in banks and many of their bottom lines may be hurt by a farm financial meltdown. Many own shares in companies like John Deere, Caterpillar, Canadian Pacific, General Mo-

tors and Monsanto which could suffer.

What about the publicly-traded Saskatchewan Wheat Pool now owned by some Quebecers and Ontarians? Eastern pension investments could also be affected. Almost every ordinary Canadian - from coast to coast has an interest in pension funds.

How many jobs could be lost on assembly lines all over those areas of Central Canada which elect Liberal members of Parliament? Workers making stuff for the west create subsidiary support jobs of all kinds.

These are just a few suggestions for strategic communication with taxpayers down east. Don't forget - also - that some of the communicating should be done in French.

And - farmers, as a group, should be advised to stop sending out mixed or confusing messages. They have to speak with one, consistent voice - if they are going to succeed.

The message behind all messages sent to all groups must be that western farmers must get the financial help they need.

Sincerely,  
Don Johnson,  
Regina, SK

## Letters are welcome

Your comment on content or issues of interest to members of our community are welcome. All letters must be signed, (signature to be printed), include a phone number and address. All letters may be edited for brevity, clarity and libel.

SEND TO: THE DIDSBURY REVIEW

Box 760 Didsbury, AB, T0M 0W0

Fax: 335-8143 E-mail: myreview@ccinet.ab.ca

**We'll help you with your last minute Christmas List**

Scotch Magic Tape, 3's

**2<sup>99</sup>**

Turtles 400g

**7<sup>49</sup>**

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**7<sup>99</sup>**

Tyesil Traditional Wrapping Paper

**4<sup>99</sup>**

**We do the little things for you 335-3066**

# FROM THE MAILBAG

## Mayor Lea addresses Klein

Dear Hon. Ralph Klein,

Greetings from the Town of Didsbury!

As you are probably aware, the residents of Didsbury and district are very upset and, more importantly, concerned that RHA#5 is considering downgrading our hospital by April 1, 2000.

We have held several meetings with our MLA and key elected officials and representatives from the region all voicing serious concern that this decision will be made without public input. We find this unacceptable.

The people of Didsbury and district find it inconceivable that the first hospital north of Calgary would be subject to this unacceptable proposal. The Didsbury facility boasts 15 acute care beds serving an area population of 45,000 people. Surely, some suitable arrangement with either the CRHA and/or the David Thompson Health region could result in increased patient care at the Didsbury hospital.

I scheduled a meeting with our MLA, RHA#5 Board members, and all regional elected officials for Thursday December 16, 1999 where I requested and later debated the key figures supporting the RHA#5 administration initiative.

It seems to us that this proposed initiative HAS NOT received Board approval. This revelation begs the question... "Who is running the ship?" I urge you, Mr. Premier, to look into this startling concern of ours. This point needs to be clarified for we perceive it to be both unsettling and disturbing that the board of RHA#5 is being undermined by administration.

The people of Didsbury and district wish to support our hospital.

In fact, we are all excited to welcome the arrival of two new physicians who plan to make Didsbury their new home. I understand that they too were upset upon hearing the news almost a month ago.

I will continue to work with RHA#5 and their board. This issue needs to be discussed in an open forum with all chief elected officials present prior to any major announcement affecting our health centre. All we ask is to be included in the discussions.

We will not be ignored. For example, we have asked for and have subsequently received a long-term plan for the Didsbury hospital. We thank the RHA#5 for answering this request.

Now we ask to be included in the dialogue relative to the long-term plan for the Didsbury hospital.

In conclusion Mr. Premier, we ask you to share our concerns with your colleagues listed below so we all can address this issue with an effective comprehensive plan.

I am available to discuss this further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mayor Raymond B. Lea, Didsbury, AB

c.c. Hon. Halvar Jonson, Minister of Health & Wellness

Richard Marz, MLA

Hon. Lyle Oberg, MLA

Carol Haley, MLA

Hon. Shirley McClellan, MLA

## Premier's plan is the wrong prescription

Dear Editor,

Premier Ralph Klein's proposal to legalize private for-profit hospitals is the wrong prescription for dealing with unacceptably long waiting lists. Instead, waiting times for procedures like hip replacements should be reduced by re-opening operating rooms and hospital beds in public facilities.

Evidence from the U.S. and elsewhere shows that private for-profit hospitals spend more on administration than non-profit community hospitals. Furthermore, private hospitals have the pressing need to make a profit.

Nor is there any assurance that private facilities reduce waiting times. In fact, the Consumers' Association of Canada recently found that waiting lists for cataract surgeries are longer in Calgary than they are in Edmonton. In Calgary, all cataract surgeries are done in private clinics while in Edmonton, they are mostly performed in public hospitals.

The Auditor General's most

recent report shows that with the exception of Calgary, entire floors of public hospitals are gathering dust and not being used because of inadequate funding. Instead of taking Alberta on the rocky path of privatization, waiting lists could be reduced immediately by reopening operating rooms and hospital beds throughout Alberta.

In Calgary, the situation is somewhat different. Waiting lists are too long and there are looming bed shortages because the government closed three public hospitals in the mid-1990s.

In my Legislature office, I keep one solitary brick from the Calgary General Hospital, which was closed down by Ralph Klein and blown up just last year. It reminds me constantly of exactly how committed to alleviating the pain and suffering of Albertans Premier Klein really is.

Sincerely,  
Pam Barrett,  
Leader N.D.P.,  
Edmonton, AB

### SING WE ALL NOEL!

With a song in our hearts,  
we'd like to sing the  
praises of our many good  
friends and neighbours.

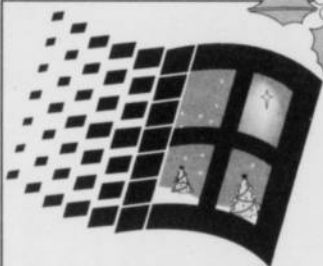
Best wishes to all of you for a  
fun-filled holiday season.

thanks for making our  
year a noteworthy one.

Volunteers & Staff  
at

Household Goods  
Thrift Store

335-3213



Wishing You the Best  
This Holiday Season!

From the staff at

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We will be closed between Christmas and New Year's  
to Enjoy the Holidays With Our Families  
Didsbury 335-3644  
www.megabytes.ab.ca



### ALL WE WANT FOR Christmas

Is To Thank Our  
Many Wonderful Friends!

The list may be long, but so is our  
gratitude for the great bunch of folk  
we've had the pleasure to know this past year.

A special **thank you** for the warmth & kindness  
in welcoming us into your community. Wishing  
you a prosperous, happy & safe Holiday Season!

Patrick & Lori

at

Didsbury Rentals

335-3664

### HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!



What better time than Christmas to let you know how  
much we value and appreciate your loyal support!  
With best wishes and heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Kuelker's Supplies

Farm Parts and Hardware

335-1992



### PEACE

May the  
blessings and  
the majesty of  
Christmas be yours, as we  
celebrate this holy season.

Please accept our sincere  
gratitude for your friendship.

Rick, Lynn & staff at

Waymore

335-9525



### May Your Days Be Merry And Bright

From our family to yours, we extend heartfelt  
thanks for your loyal patronage, and pledge to  
work even harder in the coming year to keep  
your friendship and trust.

From The Svendsen's And Staff at

DIDSBURY Fas Gas

PH. 335-4661



# FROM THE MAILBAG

## Canadians, Americans and the people of Alberta: the fight against tobacco addiction

Dear Editor,

Canadians are much smarter and more compassionate than Americans about health care, right? Except that the Yanks are kicking our butts in the fight against tobacco addiction.

I went to Massachusetts not long ago to brag about Canada's prowess in this area. Who doesn't like to brag about Canada, especially on American turf?

As a delegate to the New England and Eastern Canada Tobacco Control Conference, I had a chance to crow a bit, about Canadian anti-tobacco activities in general, and provincial and municipal activities in particular.

Good things are happening in Alberta these days. Alberta's Tobacco Reduction Alliance (ATRA) is making a concerted effort to build public support through a televised media campaign, by asking Albertans what level of involvement they expect. Other provinces and the

feds could do well to adopt a similar approach. ATRA's campaign is a model we should be using all across the country.

As for my own government in Ottawa, it is unacceptable that the smoking rate among young Canadians has soared to 30 per cent while the federal government is spending only one thin loonie on tobacco prevention for every thousand bucks it sucks in every year in tobacco taxes.

That isn't to say that the federal government hasn't done a few things right in this area. I was, therefore, pleased to be able to cite examples. The federal government imposed meaningful taxes on tobacco products during the '80s and early '90s when American governments refused to take that route. Admittedly, it backed off its tax policy in 1994 because of smuggling. But at least I could tell my fellow delegates that at one point, we Canadians had the guts to impose taxes that they wouldn't,

in a damned good cause.

But that was then, and now is now. Cigarette prices in the United States are now higher than ours. While we were lowering our taxes, American states were suing tobacco companies in court to recover health care costs.

So the tobacco companies coughed up billions of dollars in settlements. In some states, governments are actually using the resulting windfalls to mount meaningful anti-smoking campaigns. They recognize that with the stakes so high - the future of our young people's lungs - you have to bring enough money to the table to play to win.

Anti-tobacco efforts demand the same kind of effort as tobacco companies put into their marketing. Either you go full-tilt against tobacco addiction, or you might as well keep your money in your pockets.

In California, where they've ponied up enough tobacco tax

money to mount a sustained and credible campaign, adult smoking is down 31% and the youth smoking rate is 11%. That certainly doesn't spell victory, but at least youth smoking has levelled off in California. The smoking rate is three times higher in Canada. That's out of control.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is known as one of the most scrupulous and credible institutions within the international health community. Its analysis shows that, depending on the size of the jurisdiction, we need per-capita spending between \$9 and \$24 to counteract tobacco company marketing in a meaningful way.

Vermont has plans in the works to spend \$33 per capita a year.

My best guess is that \$12 per capita in Canada would allow us to stop diddling around and fight a real fight. Right now you have the federal government spending about 65 cents per

Canadian on its anti-smoking efforts.

That might ease some politicians' consciences. But it isn't going to make inroads in fighting Canada's number one preventable disease - tobacco addiction kills 45,000 Canadians a year.

Higher taxes discourage kids from smoking and they would give us the resources to set up an independent institution - free from political meddling. The recent tax increase of \$1.20 does neither.

I learned on my trip to Massachusetts what I for the most part knew - this is one health care issue where we look to Americans like we don't care much.

That is unacceptable. The hearts and lungs of our young people constitute a big part of Canada's future. Are the futures of American kids worth so much more?

Sincerely,  
Senator Colin Kenny



# TOWN OF DIDSBURY



Town Office: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.  
Shop Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Landfill Site Hours: 1 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
Mon., Wed., Fri., Sat.

335-3391  
335-8343

Didsbury Aquatic Centre Schedule  
Memorial Complex & Aquatic Centre  
Library Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Tues.-Sat. Wed. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

335-8653  
335-7369  
335-3142

Lions Recycling Centre  
Main Street Project Office  
Rosebud Valley Campground

335-8193  
335-3265  
335-8578



## DIDSBURY MEMORIAL COMPLEX HOLIDAY HOURS OF OPERATION

Holiday Schedules are in effect from December 20 - December 30, 1999. Please pick up your Arena and Aquatic Centre holiday schedules at the Memorial Complex

The Aquatic Centre will be hosting a special event - Surf'n Santa on Saturday, December 18 from 1 - 3 p.m. Please be advised that Public Swimming for this period of time is cancelled and a special admission rate of \$6 is in effect to attend the Surf'n Santa event!

The facilities will be closed during the holiday season as follows:

**AQUATIC CENTRE**  
• Friday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

**ARENA & AQUATIC CENTRE:**  
• Friday, December 24 at 3 p.m.  
• Christmas Day  
• Friday, December 31 at 3 p.m.  
• New Year's Day



Town Office  
Town of Didsbury  
Public Meetings  
Regular Council: Jan. 12  
Community Services: Dec. 28  
M.P.C.: Jan. 5  
Corporate Services: Jan. 11

Visit our Web Site!  
[www.town.didsbury.ab.ca](http://www.town.didsbury.ab.ca)

The Town of Didsbury is now accepting applications for Year 2000 FCSS Funding. If your non-profit organization falls under the mandate of FCSS, you may be eligible for funding. To make application, please contact Alana Hagel at 335-3391 or drop by the Town Office to pick up an application form. Application deadline for first round funding is January 10, 2000.

## MEMORIAL COMPLEX

Town Council and Administration, together with Memorial Complex personnel, are pleased to inform Didsbury & Area that the services provided through the Memorial Complex will continue to be provided under the new department title of Recreation & Facility Services effective January 1, 2000. For recreation and/or recreation facility needs, enquiries, and concerns, please call our Recreation and Facility Services department at 335-7369.

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Didsbury invites applications for the new and exciting position of Recreation & Facility Services Programmer! Recreation Administration or equivalent experience and technical qualifications as well as supervisory and programming experience in a variety of recreation environments are considered essential qualifications for this position.

Rhonda Hunter,  
Recreation & Facility Service Manager  
Box 790  
Didsbury, AB  
TOM OWO  
Application deadline December 24, 1999

## AQUATIC CENTRE

Please be advised of the following swimming lesson fee increases effective Session #2 (various starting dates)

	Present	Feb. 2000
Beach Tot Lessons (preschool)	\$24.00	\$26.00
AquaQuest Levels 1-6	\$24.00	\$26.00
AquaQuest Levels 7-9	\$29.00	\$31.00
AquaQuest Levels 10-12	\$31.50	\$33.50

# Checkstops out in full force this Christmas season

By Nicole Smith

'Tis the season for parties, liquor and over-indulgence. This is the time for celebration and Christmas cheer, but it is also the time of year for RCMP checkstops.

Didsbury RCMP Sergeant Ron Platz reminds the community that drinking and driving will not be tolerated, especially now that new drunk driving legislation was implemented at the beginning of the month.

Platz says that checkstops have been held every night in December throughout the detachment and will continue until after the new year.

He reports that no one has been picked up at a checkstop for drunk driving yet, and hopes this continues on through the holidays.

As far as this new legislation goes, if you've seen the commercials on television you'd have heard the new slogan: "Alberta is getting tough on drunk drivers, because drunk drivers are tough on Albertans."

If you are pulled over and provide a blood or breath sample that is more than .08 mg, or if you refuse to provide a sample, you automatically receive a three-month driving suspension.

Platz says that you're driver's license is "shredded" on the spot and a 21-day interim license is granted so you can "prepare to lose your license."

Platz says that if you are involved in an accident while impaired, and cause bodily harm or death, you automatically receive a six-month suspension on driving.

These suspensions may seem lenient to some, but they are on top of whatever judgement is handed to you in provincial court.

Other highlights of this new legislation are:

Monitoring of repeat offenders is extended from five years to 10 years.

A first, second, and third conviction within a 10-year period will result in a one, three or five-year suspension and associated interventions.

Platz reminds citizens of Didsbury and area that there are other ways of getting home, like taking a cab or walking. He says that there is never a reason to drink and drive.



**YUM!**  
One young guy got right down to dinner at the Mountain View Community Hall's annual Christmas Party last Friday night.

Photo by Colleen Horrigan

## Solid Waste Authority funding frozen from Alberta Environment

By Colleen Horrigan

The Solid Waste Authority is currently experiencing a funding freeze of grant money from Alberta Environment. The freeze affects various projects the Solid Waste Authority is working on, including new transfer stations and the hiring of a new information officer.

A representative from Alberta Environment, Steve Johnson, was present at the Dec. 17 meeting of the Solid Waste Authority to discuss the delay of the Authority's grant.

Johnson told the board that he has not been provided with all the documents he needs in order to assess the authority's grant request.

"A while ago I didn't have sufficient files and had no idea what was going on with this authority," Johnson said. "I need a clear picture on everything

that has happened all the way through to figure out what is going to happen with this grant."

Members of the Authority expressed to Johnson that all the needed information was available on the county's year-end financial statements, but Johnson said that he would rather have all the information given to him as one complete record.

Don Watt, Chair of the Solid Waste Authority, assured Johnson that he would be provided with all the necessary information.

"A summary will be provided for you for all finances up to date...then I would like assurance that we will receive a green light to go ahead," Watt said.

Johnson replied that the lack of information was only one aspect of the delay, and told the authority that he has been given

more than one version of the authority's plans for the grant money.

"You have various plans, and they are divided," Johnson said. "I want to get the grant agreement finalized, get a clear picture of where the grant is going and see if you actually need 3.8 million, that may not be the case anymore. Things such as plastic chippers aren't usually part of the waste management system."

Johnson told the authority the agreement he has been shown was drafted in 1998 and since has been amended, but wasn't made official.

Authority members said they received confirmation that recycling and other related projects did qualify under the grant agreement, and that a list of all pertinent information would be out together and given to Johnson very soon.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

--Matthew 2:10

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# Didsburians laying low for the upcoming millennium

By Nicole Smith

According to many, the upcoming millennium is expected to be the biggest non-event of the century.

Here in Didsbury, that seems to be true, as there are not many plans for millennium celebrations.

Besides all the bars and community clubs having the new year's parties and the dance at the Elk's Hall, there isn't really much planned around town for that special night.

Wendy Bauer, the chairperson of the Millennium Commit-

tee, says that nothing is planned because of a lack of interest around town.

Bauer says that when the committee was first formed, many ideas were tossed around about what Didsburians would want in millennium celebrations.

Bauer says that a special church service was suggested, as well as a fun bonspiel at the curling rink and a millennium swim at the pool.

She says that as the months went by, interest from the community fizzled out, and so did

interest in the actual committee.

"We weren't able to get anyone to volunteer, chaperone or help out for anything we wanted to do," she said.

"I think that either people are going to have parties or just go to bed."

Bauer says that she feels some disappointment, as the committee had tried so hard to plan something.

"It's unfortunate that nobody's doing anything, as much as we tried," she said.

"It's unfortunate, it really is."

# Strong economic finish in 1999 paves way for bright 2000

High energy prices, higher consumer demand and increased exports led to a resumption of strong economic growth in Alberta in the last half of 1999, and will spur growth above the national average in 2000, Alberta Economic Development reports in its semi-annual Alberta Business Outlook.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is estimated to be 2.8% for 1999, higher than the 2.4% forecast in June. Growth in 2000 is predicted to be 4.2% for Alberta, compared to 3.1% for the nation. This projection places Alberta in the top three provincial economies for 2000. Sectors expected to experience the highest growth include energy, manufacturing and retail trade.

"Most economic sectors are doing well. Alberta will enter the next century on a wave of strong performance generated by an improvement in world markets and commodity prices," said Alberta Economic Development Minister Jon Havelock.

Some of the key indicators noted in Alberta Business Outlook 2000 include:

- Employment growth is expected to be 2.9% in 1999, or 44,000 additional jobs. Forecast employment growth for 2000 is 3.0%.

- The Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors expects to drill over 14,000 wells in Western Canada in 2000, compared to 10,200 in 1999 and 9744 in 1998.

- Manufacturing activity is projected to have grown by 4.5% in 1999. Growth in this sector is forecast to be 5.5% in 2000 due to strong export growth.

- Retail sales grew by an estimated 4% in 1999, and are projected to grow by 4.8% in 2000 as a result of improved consumer confidence.

- Forest product shipments are projected to have increased by 10% in 1999, due to improvements in the Asian economy. In 2000, a slowdown in U.S. lumber markets will affect growth in Japanese demand; pulp and paper prices are, however, expected to increase.

- 1999 was a year for modest tourism growth, with the exception of the mountain parks, which benefited from growth in international markets.


- Tourism revenues are expected to be \$4.2 billion in 1999, and are forecast to grow to \$4.5 billion in 2000. This will be a priority area for Alberta Economic Development in 2000.

- Housing starts declined from the 1998 record level of 27,100 to 25,500 in 1999. Starts

are forecast to be 25,800 in 2000 - an oversupply of condominiums in Calgary is expected to restrain growth.

- Farm cash receipts are expected to increase by approximately 1% in 1999. Weakness in agricultural growths is due to low grain and offseeds prices. Cash receipts and farm net income is expected to increase in 2000, led by the livestock sector and program payments.

A complete copy of the current Alberta Business Outlook, which is compiled and published twice a year by Alberta Economic Development, is available on the Alberta Economic Development website at [www.alberta-canada.com](http://www.alberta-canada.com).



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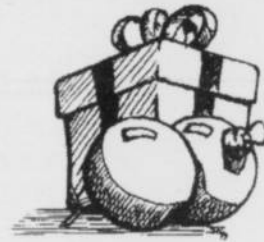
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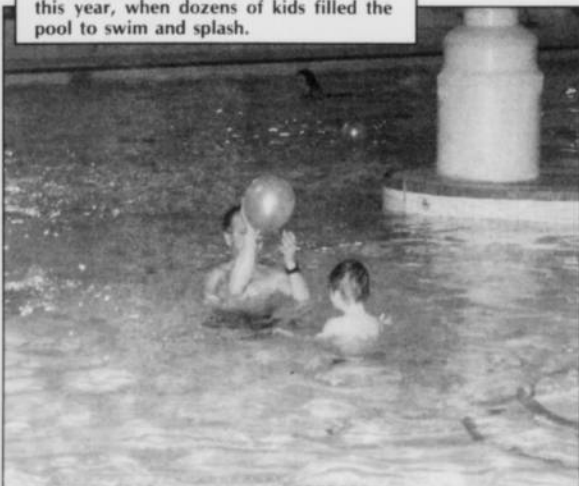
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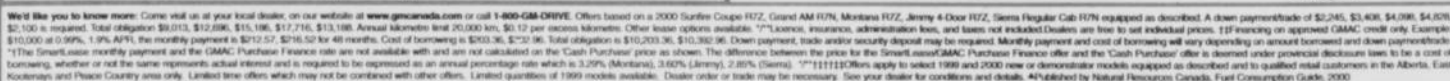
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## Lights shine bright

By Nicole Smith

With nightfall coming so early now, Didsburians once again have the opportunity to check out all the twinkling Christmas lights around town.

On Dec. 15, the Didsbury Chamber of Commerce held its annual Christmas Light Judging, and according to Loretta Copeman, one of the judges, it was a pretty tough decision.

Even after the three winners from last year were exempt, there was still a lot of winners to choose from around Didsbury and the surrounding rural area.

Along with Copeman, the judges for this fun event were Gary Simm and family and Bibs Doyle.

Regularly, the judges have three categories to slot contestants in: rural, small yard and large yard. Copeman says that because of all the outstanding displays, another category had to be added, which is a theme yard.

The winner for the rural display was Rod Lucas.

If you're wanting to have a look at his lights drive five miles east of the overpass, on 582, go three miles north and then two miles east.

Marlene Fizer took home the award for small yard this year. Her lights can be seen at 2030 20th Ave.

The large yard winner was Laurie Southgate, at 2102 24th Ave.

The winner of the newest

category, theme yard, went to the owners of 207 Westhills Close, on the 200 block.

Honourable mentions went to the owners of 2105 20th Ave., as well as, Wharton Carnochan at 17 Princess Petra Ave.

Copeman says that in addition to the winners, there are a number of "do not miss" displays around town.

She says to be sure you check out Bryan Smith's display at 16 Westwood Dr., as well as, Glenn Smith's display which can be found by driving five miles west on 582 and then one-quarter mile south on the right hand side of the road.

Also, be sure to take a look at Louise Meyers display that is two miles south to Westcott Road, one mile west on Westcott Road and then one-half mile south.

Other "do not miss" displays are the Simm's house at 309 Southridge Place and the cul-de-sac on 23rd St. and 15th Ave., where all the residents homes are lit up.

"A round of applause goes to the town, cause it looks so good," Copeman said.

The Chamber of Commerce thanks all the contestants and those homes that were winners will receive plaques early in January.

So, if you're looking for something to do one cold winter night, why not take a drive and revel in all the hard work that many people in our community have gone to.

## Bill 40 protects personal info

Bill 40, the Health Information Act, puts in place strong and clear rules for the protection of personal health information and for the appropriate use of information to improve patient care says Health and Wellness Minister Halvar Jonson.

Said Jonson, "Contrary to the allegations of the opposition parties and the leadership of the Alberta Medical Association, Bill 40 protects personal health information and puts in place strong safeguards against the unauthorized and inappropriate use or disclosure of such information. It is not a threat to the physician-patient relationship. On the contrary, Bill 40 recognizes the critical role of the physician in respecting the wishes of the individual. It is unfortunate that the inaccurate and misleading statements being made about the Bill could cause undue public concern."

He added, "While the role of the opposition parties is to oppose government legislation and bring forward amendments to strengthen legislation, intentional fear-mongering and unfounded allegations do little to contribute to ensuring accurate public understanding of the issue."

Stated Jonson, "Albertans need to clearly understand that right now no clear rules exist in legislation to protect their personal privacy, nor to ensure that patients themselves have access to their own health information throughout the health system. Bill 40 puts those safeguards into law and is a solid improvement over existing law."

Key features of the legislation include:

- Individuals must give consent before identifiable health information can be used for purposes other than for which it was collected. The exceptions to this rule are extremely restricted and few in number. It would include situations where family members of seriously ill individuals are informed so that treatment decisions can be made; to respond to a court order, to other health professionals providing treatment; or to prevent imminent danger to the health of another person.

- Individual consent is required before personal health information can be transmitted electronically.

- Establishes an independent review and arbitration process through the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner when disagreements about the disclosure or access to health information arise. This gives custodians of health information the ability to refuse requests for information from other parties and refer the matter to the Commissioner.

- Requires a full Privacy Impact Assessment for review of the Privacy Commissioner if the Minister of Health requests health information from custodians that is not already authorized in law.

- Requires any collection and use of information to be based on collecting the least amount of information possible while maintaining the highest degree of anonymity.

Jonson said, "The requirements of Bill 40 are a major step forward in protecting the personal health information of Albertans. Without this legislation there is considerable risk that their health information could be disclosed inappropriately. The legislation is a result of almost three years of extensive consultation, discussion and debate and it is now time to put these safeguards in place."

He concluded, "Every effort has been made to address the issues raised by the Opposition parties and by the Alberta Medical Association. And to even suggest that the Bill is in any way connected to the Policy Statement on the Delivery of Surgical services is simply preposterous."

"What is most important is that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is comfortable with the legislation; that the participants in our multi-stakeholder committee which helped develop the legislation are comfortable with it; and that the vast majority of individuals who have actually read Bill 40 including physicians, are comfortable with the legislation."

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# Business

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## Government launches initiative for rural Canada

Federal funding for 71 innovative pilot projects aimed at strengthening rural communities in Canada was announced Dec. 13 by the Honourable Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State, Rural Development, Federal Initiative for Development in Northern Ontario.

The \$3 million in funding will be provided under the government of Canada's rural development strategy, the Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP).

"The government of Canada is committed to the well-being of Canada's rural and remote communities," says Mitchell. "Programs like the Canadian Rural Partnership foster the entrepreneurial spirit in rural communities and aim to bring together rural stakeholders for the good of rural communities."

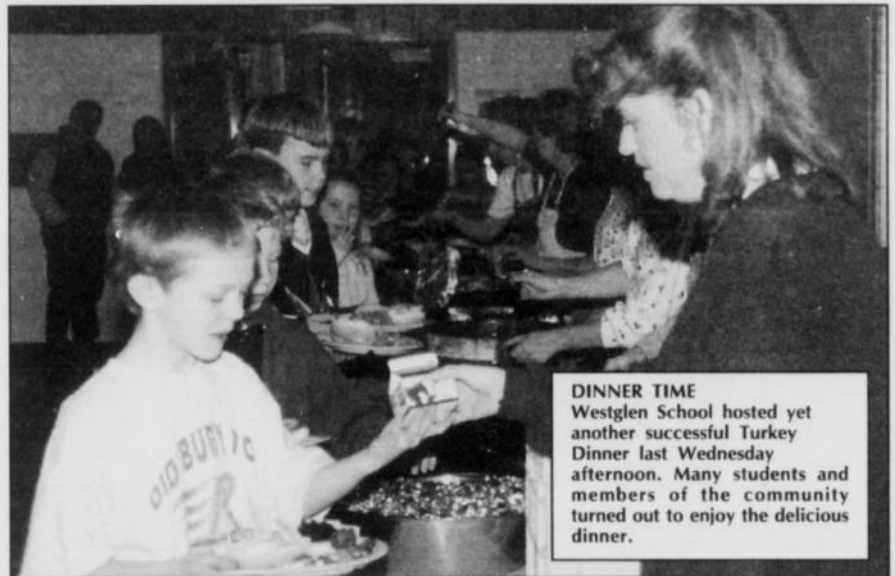
The pilot projects range from youth and aboriginal development initiatives to environmental conservation programs. Mitchell says these creative pilot projects are examples of how the federal government works with rural Canadians to explore new ideas and promote self-sufficiency throughout rural Canada. The lessons learned from these pilot projects will be

made available so that rural communities across the country can benefit from the experiences of others.

In last year's federal budget, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vancilief announced the first round of CRP pilot projects. The \$20-million, four-year CRP program is the framework for the government of Canada's rural development strategy. The program provides funding for pilot projects developed by rural associations, organizations and residents to test new and innovative ideas in the form of partnerships with federal government departments. The \$3 million in funding is coming out of this year's second round of CRP announcements.

"This funding will help people in rural communities take advantage of new economic development and employment opportunities and will help make rural Canada an even better place to live," says Vancilief, who is also the Minister Responsible for Coordinating Rural Affairs.

The CRP pilot projects initiative supports rural Canadians as they pursue creative, community-based responses to promote self-sufficiency.



**DINNER TIME**  
Westglen School hosted yet another successful Turkey Dinner last Wednesday afternoon. Many students and members of the community turned out to enjoy the delicious dinner.

## Livestock Pavilion dedicated to Archie and Dixie Caluori

If you are looking for the Livestock Pavilion these days, you might want to redirect your efforts. As of Dec. 4, 1999, the Olds Agricultural Society's Livestock Pavilion has been renamed the Caluori Pavilion in honour of Dixie and Archie Caluori.

The name change, according to vice-president Kathleen Windsor, was only fitting considering the amount of time and service the couple devoted during the 20 plus years they each have been involved with the Agricultural Society.

"As with many others too, their input commenced prior to any formal recognition in our records," Windsor comments.

"But there would hardly be a fair in Alberta where the name Caluori is not known and promptly recognized as a source of information relating to fairs at Olds."

Daughter Rhonda Baker says the years her parents have spent working with the Olds Agricultural Society have been a labour of love.

"That's just what they like to do. I don't think either of them went into it thinking that they had to be there for that amount of time...that's just where their interests lie. It's second nature to them," she said.

Their son, Stacey Caluori agrees.

He was 11 years old when his parents began their long history with the Agricultural Society and has vivid memories of what it was like coming

to the fairgrounds with his Mom and Dad.

"I can remember picking rocks with them on the race-track in the summer. They took us everywhere...that's just good parenting. They gave it their all no matter what they did," he says.

Perhaps that is why neither Archie or Dixie have taken a vacation since 1980. "They are workaholics," Stacey added.

One of Archie Caluori's first official duties with the Agricultural Society was through his appointment as director in 1982 - a position he still holds and to which he is obviously well-suited. During the 20 years he has spent with the Agricultural Society, 14 have been as director. In addition to a long tenure as grounds superintendent he has also overseen his annual fair responsibilities in the area of chucks and chariots, infield and machinery row.

"Archie has an incredible knack for knowing what might be needed before problems become apparent," says Windsor.

"When incoming exhibitors needed direction, some other exhibitor would simply say, 'just see Archie Caluori; he'll take care of you.'"

Dixie Caluori began her history with the Olds Agricultural Society as assistant secretary/treasurer in 1979 and took on that portfolio completely for seven successive years. In those years Olds was a "B" Fair, struggling to ac-

quire higher status. Her presence at provincial fair meetings showed that Olds was well represented in an executive capacity to gain class "A" status that was accomplished in 1984.

But Dixie's involvement only started there. She was also named "livestock representative" officially, but worked more as the coordinating director for activities in the Cow Palace over the years. With the Cow Palace becoming a focal point which required specific attention to the booking of events on a near weekly basis throughout the years, Dixie was a natural choice and soon made a strong impact on the increasing numbers of bookings handled in the facility.

The duties Dixie took on with the Agricultural Society were only part of the responsibilities that touched her life. Daughter Rhonda remembers the hours she dedicated towards the Melody Maids Girls Club when she was growing up (a club that incidentally folded as soon as Dixie had to step down) and the work she accomplished with the Olds and District Light Horse Association.

"Mom has always been an incredibly organized individual which is why so many of her jobs get done early," explains Baker. "...but it's the contact with people that she really likes the best. I'd have to say that's what the attraction is here, for both Mom and Dad."

## Initial payments up

The CWB announced on Dec. 17 that the government of Canada has approved increases to the 1999-2000 initial payments for designated barley. The CWB had recommended to the federal government that 1999-2000 initial payments for wheat and durum also be increased, however, the recommendations have not been approved at this time.

Effective Jan. 11, 2000, initial payments for designated barley will increase \$15 per tonne.

Farmers who delivered barley to the CWB between Aug. 1, 1999 and Jan. 10, 2000 will receive an adjustment payment. The payments will be mailed the week of Jan. 17 or received by direct deposit on Jan. 18. Farmers with direct deposit wishing to defer their payments must notify the CWB by Jan. 12, 2000.

Initial payments are guaranteed by the federal government and are paid to farmers when they deliver grain. The CWB recommends increases to the initial payments as market conditions warrant or each pool account becomes more firm. This is the second adjustment to the designated barley initial payments in the 1999-2000 crop year.

Farmers receive the balance of their returns in either additional adjustment payments before the close of the crop year (July 31, 2000) or in interim or final payments after the close of the crop year, and after all expenses have been deducted.

Initial payments should not be confused with monthly Pool Return Outlooks which are the CWB's estimates of total pool year returns. A complete listing of payments for all grades in dollars per tonne and dollars per bushel is posted on the CWB's website under the payments link at [www.cwb.ca](http://www.cwb.ca).

The CWB is the world's largest wheat and barley marketer. Headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, it is one of Canada's biggest exporters and the largest net earner of foreign currency. Marketing Prairie-grown wheat and barley to over 70 countries around the world, the CWB returns all sales revenue, less the costs of marketing, to farmers in western Canada.

# Canadian agriculture prepares for new millennium

By Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief

The natural instinct when approaching a milestone is to look back to where we've come from and ahead to where we're going. As we stop to ponder the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium, we are in awe of the speed of progress, from horse and plow to computer-guided tractors in a single lifetime.

In fact, a recent survey on the East Coast pegged mechanization and the invention of the tractor as the most significant agricultural development in the 20th century.

As we look forward, we can only wonder what awaits the world of agriculture. Right now, the Canadian agriculture industry finds itself in a situation where new tools, techniques and products have created options that were unimaginable in the past. On one hand, this is presenting challenges, as we can see with the current debate on genetically-enhanced foods. But it is also presenting exciting new opportunities, with the large array of specialty products being produced for niche markets and the partnerships emerging with non-food industries such as health care.

At the turn of the last century, people would have wondered about your mental health if you said that farmers could one day play a role in medical research. Yet today, as we sit on

the doorstep of the new millennium, researchers at one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's centres in southern Ontario are using crops, tobacco plants in this case, to grow human proteins that could help battle Crohn's disease.

Today's farmer also has access to more commodities and more markets. Before 1968, grain was the main crop group on the Prairies because of climate constraints. With the development of drought-resistant legume and canola crops, Prairie producers now have better crop rotations and more niche market and value-added opportunities. Hog, cattle, ginseng, elk, ostrich and emu operations are also examples of diversification.

There's no doubt progress has presented farmers with a larger variety of choices and opportunities. But there is also no denying that despite all this variety, many farmers are suffering right now. I realize advances in technology and increases in world trade don't come across as positives when you're having a hard time simply making ends meet.

It will take time for the changing world economy to reach the point where Canada can take full advantage of its exporting capabilities. It will also take time for things like alliances with the health care industry and niche production to start paying real dividends for farmers.

When world trade frees up

markets and prices, and trends like nutraceuticals, functional foods and ethanol-based fuel really get their legs, Canadian agriculture will be sitting in a prime spot to take advantage. We are prepared: we have started already to partner with other industries, we have been and continue to be on the leading edge of new technology and we have the adaptability and creative thinking power to stay ahead of international competition.

The agriculture industry's efficiency has increased dramatically during this century. Advances in conservation tillage, crop breeding and management and improved fertilizers mean we can produce more food on less land with fewer inputs.

Over the last 50 years or so the amount of milk produced per cow has doubled, resulting in a 50% decrease in the amount of land required to support the animals. The amount of chicken feed required to produce a dozen eggs also has been cut in half over the past 50 years.

These production increases have resulted in significant manure reductions. Today's farmers are very conscious of the environment and increasing efficiency is allowing them to decrease their environmental impact.

This kind of stewardship is another thing that will ensure our industry is competitive throughout the new millennium. The initiatives Canadian farm-

ers are undertaking in everything from wildlife conservation to preventing manure runoff are proof of a strong commitment to sustaining the resources we were blessed with in this country.

If you have some thoughts on this column, or other topics you would like to see addressed,

please don't hesitate to contact me at: [www.agr.ca/cb/mail/emailmin.html](http://www.agr.ca/cb/mail/emailmin.html).

Or you can write to me at: Lyle Vanclief, Minister, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Sir John Carling Building, 930 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5.

Until next month.

## CWB bulletin

At a glance:

The CWB expects to announce the 1998-99 final payments later this week. Final payments represent the balance of the money owing to farmers after their grain has been sold by the CWB, and after operating costs have been deducted. Final payment cheques, dated January 2000, will be mailed in late December.

From elevator to port:

Rail car unloads (for week 19, week ending Dec. 12) for all grains were 3,414 at Vancouver (target: 3,300) and 1,437 at Prince Rupert (target: 1,200). Rail car unloads at Thunder Bay totalled 2,298 cars (target: 2,900).

Primary elevator space (for week 19) was 20%, compared to 19% the week before. Manitoba elevators averaged 21% space, Saskatchewan elevators averaged 20% space and Alberta elevators averaged 19% space.

FOB forward:

The CWB negotiated a new supply agreement with Japan last week. The CWB will supply Japan with a minimum of 1.2 million tonnes of high quality milling wheat and 160,000 tonnes of feed barley in calendar year 2000. Actual prices will be determined through weekly tenders. In 1999, the supply agreement called for a minimum of 1.2 million tonnes of milling wheat and 200,000 tonnes of feed barley.

Potpourri:

Japan is a very important and stable market for cereal grains. Canadian wheat is used for bread and noodles, durum wheat is used for pasta, and barley is used for malt, food and feed purposes. The first Canadian wheat sale to Japan took place in 1921.

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We hope your holiday season is really something to write home about. Enjoy all that the season has to offer with friends and family and plenty of good cheer.

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# From the ground up: Commitment to growing

It takes careful financial planning and long-term commitment to grow a successful organic farming operation.

In the past few decades, organic agriculture has evolved from an obscure market niche to a thriving industry. A growing number of Canadian producers are realizing the potential of this relatively new market. Not unlike conventional farming, the key to success in organic production is long-term commitment, sound financial planning and production expertise.

Since 1991, brothers Bernie and Brian Ehnes have operated a completely organic farming enterprise 15 miles south of Entzikom, AB. They raise certified organic cattle and chickens and plant 3,200 acres of organic crops. They also own and operate an organic seed cleaning operation where seeds are cleaned to export and food grade standards.

The Ehnes brothers have joined an increasing number of producers who are exploring organic production. These producers are tapping into an organic market that is experiencing a healthy growth rate in North America, Europe and Japan. In the United States, expansion has exceeded 20% for each of the past six years, with organic food sales reaching \$5 billion (U.S.) in 1998. The Canadian organic sector currently represents about 1% of primary production and is growing by

more than 10% each year.

Prepare financially for three-year transition:

Marvin Mensaghi, a Farm Credit Corporation Credit Advisor in Medicine Hat, has worked with the Ehnes brothers for several years. He recommends that producers consider a few key factors before they go organic.

"The management abilities and financial resources must be in place beforehand," he says. "The transition takes at least three years and farmers have to prepare themselves for this period. The lower the debt load when they begin, the better. From day one, they also need to be very cost sensitive."

As Mensaghi points out, entering organic farming is no easy task. In order for a piece of land to become certified organic, it must first go through the three-year transitional phase where it cannot be exposed to any synthetic pesticides, fungicides, herbicides or fertilizers. Both during and after the transitional period, a recognized certification organization must inspect the land annually. Organic seed and livestock operations also receive yearly inspections. Organic producers, like the Ehnes brothers, must maintain diligent records for auditing purposes and adhere to strict standards in every stage of their operation in order to maintain their certification.

In addition to conducting production research and planning, producers need to arrange

the financing necessary for the initial transition phase. The Ehnes brothers financed the conversion by approaching it gradually. During the transition period, they were able to find markets for their transitional products and also grew some conventional crops.

In Teviotdale, Ontario, Martin de Groot and his wife Ineke Booy own and operate Triangle Farm, consisting of 600 acres of land they plant organically. They work with a brokerage that buys and cleans their seeds.

"The majority of our soybeans are sold to Belgium. Our spelt (an ancient cereal grain that has reemerged as a health food) goes to millers in Ontario and the U.S. and our sweet corn is sent to a company in Ontario," de Groot says.

The couple also operates Mapleton Organic Dairy Inc., a dairy operation with 60 head of organic cattle. The dairy produces milk that is processed into certified organic frozen yogurt and ice cream at a plant located on their farm. The couple sells part of the production in their own store located on Triangle Farm and the remainder to health food and specialty stores throughout B.C., the prairie provinces and Ontario.

When the de Groot's immigrated to Canada from the Netherlands in 1980, they began farming conventionally but eventually decided to make the transition. "It took almost six years to convert all the land we

had at the time to certified organic. By 1989, we had produced our first certified organic crop of spelt," says Booy.

Like the Ehnes brothers, the couple was able to finance this lengthy transitional period by gradually converting their land to organics. "We still grew conventional crops and produced conventional food until all of our land had gone through the transitional process. If you do it field by field, you can learn by what you've done and it's easier than going cold-turkey." After all of

their land and feed was certified organic, they were then required to feed the dairy cattle certified organic feed for one whole year. At the end of this process, they could start marketing the milk and by-products as certified organic.

As the organic industry continues to grow, opportunities for producers will grow along with it. Careful financial and production planning will ensure that producers can make the long-term commitment necessary to be a successful player in this industry.

## Vision moves closer

Canada's beef industry is a step closer to implementing the Computer Vision System (CVS) for grading beef. A commercial agreement has been signed and Research Management Systems (RMS) of Calgary have received exclusive Canadian rights to the system. This opens the way for regulatory approval in Canada.

The system takes a digital picture of the beef carcass. "I think this system will really aid in a very consistent objective assessment of the quality and yield in beef carcasses," said Arno Doerksen, chairman of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association Beef Quality and Grading committee. He hopes this new advancement in grading will soon be approved by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

CVS has been tested in Canada. It has been operational at Cargill Foods in High River. Several systems are being introduced in the United States.

Doerksen feels there's a good future for the product.

"I think that with the emergence of branded products and tighter production specifications that are coming, the system will aid in optimizing information on quality and yield. We're hoping the value of the system will be widely recognized and used in the industry. Response to this point has been positive."

The CVS unit was developed by scientists from the Lacombe Research Station in cooperation and with the support of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Canadian Meat Council.

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# Options for handling feeding pen runoff

Well designed pens for backgrounding feedlots or finishing feedlots are built to keep cattle and the pens clean. They should have good slopes to provide positive drainage for spring snow melt and summer rain storms.

"Muddy pens increase feeding costs," says Robert Borg, agricultural engineer with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Red Deer. "Four to eight inches of mud will increase feed requirements by 15% and 12 to 24 inches of mud will increase feed required by 25%."

Dirty pens can increase feeding costs for 100 steers in a muddy lot by \$1000 per month. Every four muddy days adds one day to the total time spent in the feedlot. Also, animals at the plant are docked for "tag", mud and manure caked on the cattle.

"Cattle build up a manure pack in the pen," says Borg. "Compaction under the cattle's hooves in the soil manure layer creates impervious gleyed layer or hardpan layer of soil. This impervious layer protects ground water by preventing infiltration. It's important to protect and maintain this gleyed layer when pens are being cleaned. If pens are empty in the summer or animal density is too low, the gleyed layer may not be reliable. In this case make sure to build on a good compacted clay soil."

The manure pack also affects runoff behaviour. When rain falls on the manure pack nothing runs off until the manure pack is saturated. After up to a 24-hour delay, runoff begins. With short intense rain storms, there is less time for water to soak in and runoff starts sooner. Anywhere from 15-40% of the annual precipitation will run off the feeding pens.

"Well designed feeding pens are built on a 2-4% slope, with a feeding fence or feed bunk located on the high, dry side of the pen," adds Borg. "The runoff from snow melt or rain storms drains out of the pen in to a drainage channel located outside of the pen. The runoff is high in organic matter and contains nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and salts."

Runoff can be irrigated onto cropland grassed areas (grain, straw, and hay). The nutrients and some of the salt can be absorbed by the crop. When the plants are harvested, the nutrients will be removed from the system rather than flow into surface water. The type of irrigation will depend on the scale or size of the feedlot and the type of feedlot - whether it is used year round or just during the winter.

Some examples of how to use runoff:

Large feedlots collect the runoff first in a sedimentation ditch, holding the runoff for up to 30 minutes to allow larger manure particles to settle out. Land-spreading the nutrient rich solids on cropland is an effective way to use solid wastes and reduce the cost of fertilizing. The water from the sedimentation ditch flows to a catch basin. Depending on management and design of the system, the catch basin can hold the annual runoff, the winter snow melt, or a 24 hour rain storm expected only once every 30 years.

After the catch basin, the runoff is irrigated on to cropland where the nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and salt is harvested as grain and straw.

Medium feedlots may look at several options that all include a sedimentation

ditch and usually some controlled storage of runoff. The runoff is distributed to a contained infiltration area. Backflood irrigated grasslands or control flooded meadows are one option where the runoff water is held and allowed to infiltrate the soil.

High flow rate overland flow of water across vegetation is another method of irrigation. Vegetated filter strips, either grassed or treed areas, are another option. Again, the key is to use the nutrients before they can flow into streams or bodies of water.

Small feedlots of less than 100 head or one acre may be able to use a system of direct runoff to pasture or grassland if they are well away from streams and water bodies.

"Each site will be unique depending on soils, topography, climate and the relative risk of water contamination at each location," says Borg.

Design information for feedlot planning may be found in the publication Alberta Feedlot Management Guide.

Cost of the guide is \$99 (includes shipping and handling). Copies can be obtained by contacting the Feeder Associations of Alberta Ltd. by phone at (780) 674-5381 or by fax at (780) 674-6969.

Copies are also available at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Christmas is a very special time as families gather to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. In doing so, it gives all of us an opportunity to renew family relationships and community friendships as well. It is indeed a magical time of year.

It is our sincere wish that you have a wonderful holiday filled with good friends and joyful times. May the miracle of Christmas inspire you with its hope, promise and love through the coming year.



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# Sports & Entertainment

Local Teams &amp; Tournaments • Statistics • Movie &amp; Theatre Reviews • Sports Columns



## SAVED ...

It was a rough game for the Mountain View Colts last Saturday evening, when they took on the Okotoks Bisons. Fights, body checking and cheap shots were apparent throughout the entire game, which the Bisons ended up winning.

Photo by Nicole Smith

## Theatre Didsbury plays another hit with Bedside Manners

By Colleen Horrigan

Theatre Didsbury's latest effort, a comedy entitled *Bedside Manners*, was truly a clever play performed by actors who literally became their characters for the time they were on stage. And it was the well-rehearsed portrayal of these five clumsy, confused and conniving characters that made this play great to watch.

The show's plot was intricate enough to leave the audience anxious to know what would happen, but not too much as to leave them confused. The basic story involves two married men, each having an affair with the other's wife, and each illegitimate couple booking a secret rendezvous at the same hotel. Caught in the middle of this web of lies is the hotel-keeper, who is stuck trying to keep each spouse from discovering the other's betrayal.

A hilarious spoof of society's growing acceptance of this type of behaviour, the message of *Bedside Manners* seems to attempt to prove some of the most basic values, such as one lie only leads to a bigger lie, and thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife.

The first deceiving husband on stage is Roger, played by Rick Phillips. The nervous fellow checks in as Mr. Smith, informing the desk clerk that he is expecting a lady friend. He saw an advertisement for this out-of-the-way hotel and thought it would be the perfect setting for his secret meeting. Meanwhile, he has led his wife Helen to believe that he is off for

the weekend on a business trip.

The other husband checks in next, also under the name of Smith. Known as Geoff, this character is played by Curt Engel. He nervously awaits the arrival of his girlfriend for the weekend, Roger's wife Helen.

Both men are shown to their rooms and prepare for their guests to arrive. Each attempts to use room service, but find the phones out of order. This sets the stage for the close calls at the front desk, where unknowing spouses nearly discover each others' presence during the many trips down to ask the hotel-keeper for various items.

The flamboyant Sally, played by Tracie Skeet-Brook, shows up next. She asks, of course, for a reservation under the name of Mr. Smith. This nearly sent her to the room of her husband, but by chance put her in with Roger, the Mr. Smith she was expecting to see.

Finally comes the over-disguised Helen, wearing dark glasses and a trenchcoat. Played by Monica Hill, Helen too had booked the hotel for the planned naughty weekend after seeing the same ad as Roger.

Connecting all the other characters is the hotel-keeper, Ferris, played by Derek Lewis. Ferris is unaccustomed to this type of work, as he is only temporarily looking after the seedy hotel for his sister while she is on vacation. Ferris lets it be known early on that he is quite inconvenienced by all the fuss the guests cause, and his lack of professionalism as a hotel-keeper leads to some humorous

interruptions of the couples once they are in their rooms.

When the mischievous Ferris discovers the true story behind his four guests, his contagious laughter spreads to the audience.

He realizes he is in a position to benefit from the predicament of his guests, holding out his hand expectantly every time he agrees to keep one of the four from being caught by his or her spouse.

Directed by Tony Sylvestre and written by Derek Benfield,

the play had laugh-out-loud moments too numerous to count. One of the best was when, after Rick Phillips stumbled over a word in one of his lines, Derek Lewis chose not to ignore the blunder but instead played it up.

His character Ferris was shouting at Roger for all the trouble he was causing, and Lewis ad-libbed into the tirade that Roger should take care of his own problems and learn his lines, while he's at it.

Judging by the audience's

reaction and applause at the end of the show, *Bedside Manners* was thoroughly enjoyed by the entire audience. Director Tony Sylvestre said the play had similar reactions to many other showings of the play in different venues, often resulting in the troupe being pre-booked months in advance for their upcoming shows. With a record like that and shows as hilarious as *Bedside Manners*, Theatre Didsbury is sure to continue its tradition of making people laugh.



**THERE, THERE**  
Derek Lewis comforts a distraught Curt Engel during Theatre Didsbury's performance of *Bedside Manners* at the Memorial Complex last Friday evening.

Photo by Nicole Smith

# Grizzlys end moderately successful road trip

By Barry Williams

With two wins in four games, the Olds Grizzlys ended a moderately successful road trip against the Lloydminster Blazers.

Playing in Lloydminster on the weekend of Dec. 11-12, the Grizzlys dropped a pair of games 5-2 and 3-2. With the defeats, the Grizzlys dropped to second place in the Cantel AT&T Alberta Junior Hockey League south division standings.

In both games, the Grizzlys were single-handedly defeated by the heroics of Blazers netminder Dustin Schwartz, who joined the Lloydminster squad this past week after being released by the Red Deer Rebels of the Western Hockey League.

"There is no doubt, Schwartz was the difference in the games, especially in the second one," said Grizzlys' general manager and head coach, Garry Van Hereweghe, noting the Grizzlys had their scoring chances but failed to find the twine behind Schwartz.

After falling behind 3-0 in the first period of game one, the Grizzlys tried to mount a comeback but were thwarted by the acrobatic Blazers netminder.

In the second encounter, which featured good old-fashioned firewagon hockey with end to end action, the Blazers

were the last team to blink the red light.

"I thought our players were better prepared in the second game and played fairly well against a tough team on their home ice," added Van Hereweghe, indicating the Grizzlys were somewhat sluggish in the first game.

For the Grizzlys in the first game, Aaron Sept and Colen Pappas dented the twine, while in the final encounter captain Dana Lattery blinked the red light twice.

On Dec. 15, the Grizzlys returned to the friendly confines of the Olds Sportsplex in hopes of rebounding from their losing skid.

But, the visiting Crowsnest Pass Timberwolves had different ideas as they defeated the Grizzlys 5-4 in a battle for second place in the Cantel AT&T south division standings.

Despite out-shooting the Timberwolves 40-21, the Grizzlys were unable to deposit the puck behind Timberwolves goalie Joel Martin on a consistent basis. Meanwhile, in an effort to revise the squad, coach Van Hereweghe pulled starting netminder Chris Schwindt midway through the second period after the Timberwolves had built a 4-1 cushion.

Denting the twine for the

Grizzlys were John Wegenast, Colen Pappas, Morod Radmacher and Craig Bezjack.

As the AJHL heads into the Christmas break, two Grizzlys will be participating with the Alberta Junior Hockey League Selects as they participate in an international Junior A tournament being held in Camrose during Christmas holidays. Lattery and Pappas made the final selection for the Selects, while Dave Erickson, Matt Bruner and Joel Macauley were invited to the all star team training camp. Due to injuries, Erickson, Bruner and Macauley had a tough time in cracking the Selects roster.

When the Grizzlys return to the Olds Sportsplex on Jan. 4, 2000 against the Bow Valley Eagles, Van Hereweghe expects the injured players will be returning to the game roster.

"It has been tough playing without some key players, but for the most part the players have picked up their play and responded favourably to the number of injuries which have occurred in the past games," said Van Herewehe.

"When we return to the ice in the new year, the players should be refocused on improving their play," concluded Van Hereweghe.



## NICE SHOT

The Colts were down on their luck last Saturday night. Next home action for the Mountain View Colts is Jan. 8 at 8 p.m., when they take on Big Country.

Photo by Nicole Smith

# Rottweilers hockey - a win and a loss

On Friday, Dec. 17 the Didsbury Rottweilers journeyed to Cremona for a league game.

The boys started out strong and at one time held a 5-1 lead. Unfortunately the Rottweilers started to get penalties, and although it is not normal for this group, the home team took their chance to get back in the game.

Nathan Crosby and James Whalen were noticeable by their strong two-way play.

Goal scorers for Didsbury were Matt Collinge, Nathan Crosby, James Whalen, Kelly Kohut and Tim Phillips with assists going to Colby Willebrands, Jay Keating and Matt Collinge.

With less penalty minutes in coming games, this team is sure to do well.

Sunday, Dec. 19 the Rottweilers traveled to Banff to play the Canmore team. The team played well and displayed some great backchecking. Defensively, Jay Keating and Steve McNeil had their best game of the year. Good job boys.

The Rottweilers came away winners, with goals scored by Matt Collinge, Jeff Choquette and Nathan Crosby. Assists went to Kelly Kohut, James Whalen, Matt Collinge, Tim Phillips and Jeff Choquette. A good work ethic was showed by the whole team, and it paid off in the end.



We're so glad you stopped by this past year. We wish you much happiness and peace, all through this special season and beyond!

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# Didsbury Rustlers update: Good season so far

The Rustlers are at around 500 for the season. The last three games saw two losses and one win.

In game one on Dec. 11 the Rustlers hosted Sundre Red. The first period had the Rustlers ahead 2-1 with one goal from Kyle Gebers assisted by Matt Jaenen and the other from Brayden Hopfe assisted by Jonathon Johnson.

Sundre walked in and took over with four goals in the second period. Brayden Hopfe answered back with one assisted by Trent Uhrich.

The third period gave Sundre two more for a game total of seven and Brayden Hopfe had one more assisted by Andrew Peterson to give the Rustlers a total of four. Jon Carlson did well in net despite the flu taking him out of the game after only one period of play. Justin Gebers stepped in and took over in net, playing a good game.

Game two on Dec. 18 saw the

Rustlers travel to Olds for the first time this year. Matt Jaenen was the man between the pipes and he did well. The game was a close one with a 4-4 tie until the 10 minute mark of the third period, when Olds came alive and made the game 7-4. For the Rustlers, Zach Pochapsky had one assisted by Kasey Eichhorst and Kyle Gebers had the other three.

Game three brought Sundre White to town on Dec. 19. The game-opener came from Brayden Hopfe assisted by Dustin Moreau and Eric Timmins. Brayden had the next one and a game total of five. Wow! Kyle Gebers had a hat trick, Chelsea Overwater had a goal assisted

by Ryan Hunter, and Jesse Steward had a terrific drive to the net but the goalie stopped it.

The third period was terrific with six unanswered goals for the Rustlers to make a 9-5 win over Sundre. Andrew Peterson

played net and did a great job.

The Christmas season brings with it a break - the Rustlers have only one exhibition game in Carstairs on Dec. 28. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Y2K!

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By Frank Pavlick

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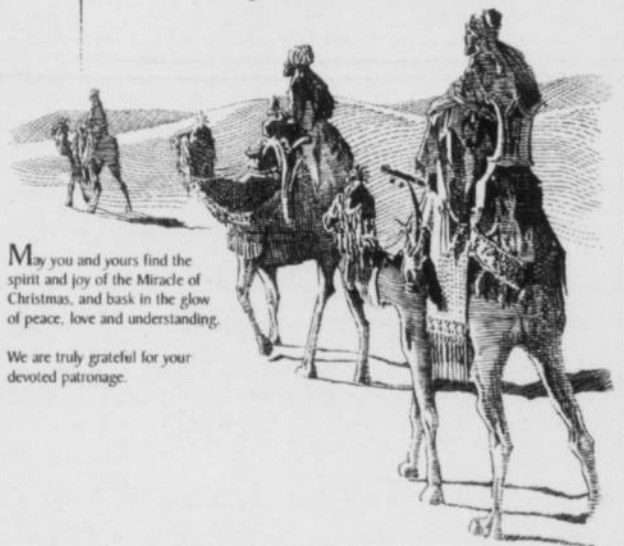


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# Lifestyles

Features • Community Clubs • Religion • Recipes • Local Personalities

## Rudolph is in love, and other North Pole news

By Ceilidh McClurg

Santa was able to take time out of his hectic pre-Christmas preparations to have a chat with the Didsbury Review, and he has some important notices for children this year.

"I've been keeping a close eye on the children of Didsbury and area this year," he laughs merrily.

In fact, Mr. Claus has employed a very special elf. Her name is Paulette and she is an undercover naughty and nice investigator.

"When you're an undercover elf there is a lot to do," says Paulette. She has been in close contact with Santa to point out all the extra special boys and girls in Didsbury and area.

She has good news for the children in the area. Paulette says that there is still time to change your ways before Christmas because she does regular checks. She says sibling rivalry is probably the thing that puts most kids on edge, however she says Didsbury kids are in good standing.

"It is really thinking of other people that makes the difference," says Paulette. "If you're really trying to be good, it is pretty hard to be bad isn't it?"

Santa reports that the elves are getting so excited for Christmas that even they are beginning to be a little bit mischievous. He says there have been a number of times he was unable to find the elves taking breaks from the workshops, because they had hidden in the snow drifts.

Kids can check on their naughty and nice standing by calling Santa and his elves at NES-CREW (637-2739).

Santa is also really excited to hear from all the children of the area.

"It's really important to hear from children at Christmas time," says Santa. He says children can call the previously mentioned phone number from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 3 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Oh, and if Santa is busy in the workshops and making visits to the locals, he does have an answering machine, and he will call the kids back when he is done.

Santa has been taking calls at the North Pole for about five years now, although he still likes to get letters. He says it is all part of keeping up with technology in this quickly changing world.

There is a rapid rate of change at the North Pole, reports Santa. He and his wife, Mrs. Claus, have decided they

need to remember tradition, but also need to "keep with the times." In fact, he has become so technologically inclined that his phone line is now wired through a satellite hookup, and he has hired a special team of elves who have special training in technology.

"We try to keep with the times," he says.

In keeping computerized track of children around the world, Santa says he has discovered that there are many more children than there used to be thousands of years ago. For this reason, he has had to expand his Christmas forces. Santa made the official announcement that there will be two more reindeer added to the sleigh next year to be able to deal with the increased volumes of toys that need to be delivered. He says the new reindeer, to be named Prancette and Dancette, are currently in training and are developing very well.

"Although they are a little shy right now," says Santa. He expects with rigorous flight training over the next year, the babies will be ready for Christmas 2000.

Speaking of reindeer, there is big news at the North Pole about everybody's favourite, Rudolph.

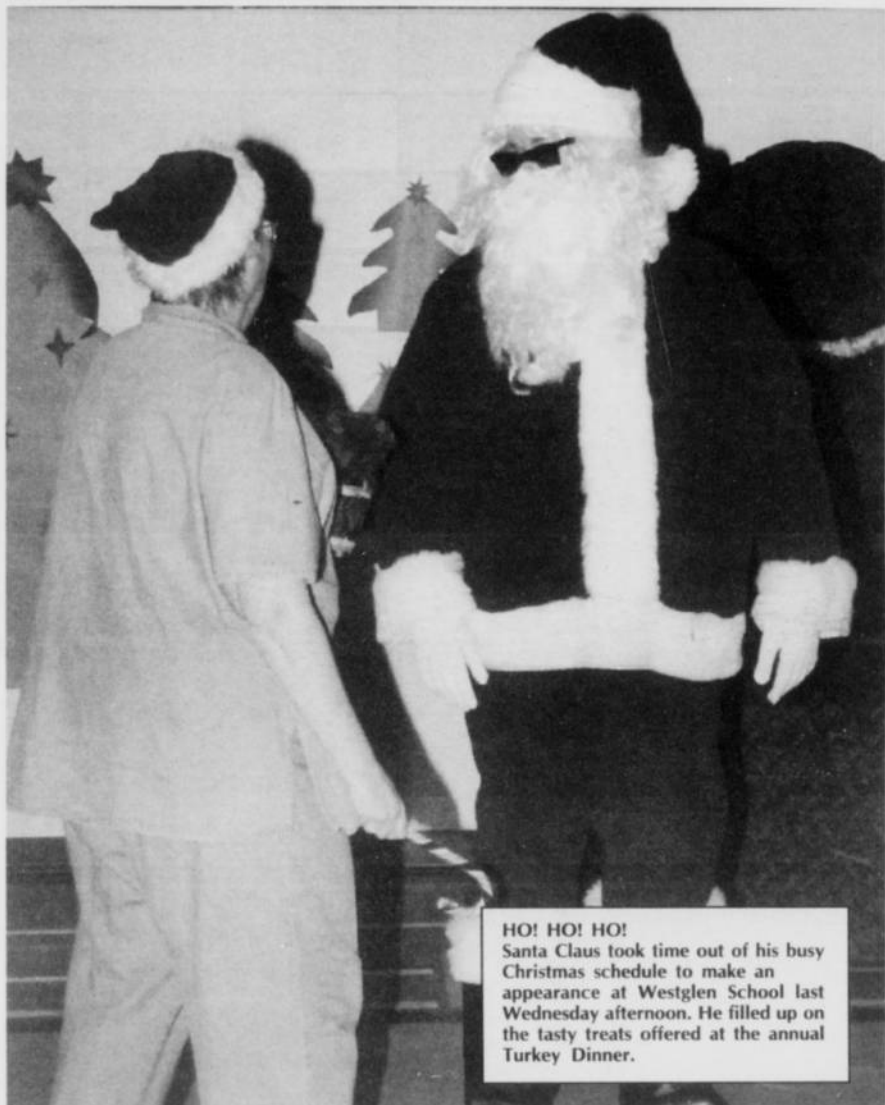
Apparently he has taken an interest in Jules, another reindeer that lives at the Pole. Santa explains that Rudolph has become somewhat distracted with his duties and isn't practicing as much as Santa wished he would. However, the elves and Mr. and Mrs. Claus are happy that Rudolph has taken up with Jules.

"We are all hopeful that they will become romantically involved," he says with a roll of laughter. It looks good so far, apparently Rudolph is so hyped up that "he is difficult to keep on the ground," says Santa.

The head reindeer is almost ready for his big night. "A.J. elf has given Rudolph a buff and a manicure to get him ready," Santa assures.

There was almost a labour dispute at the North Pole this year between the elves. He explains, the elves in the 'green room' felt their role at the Pole was not being sufficiently recognized because Mrs. Claus had been wearing a red dress for more than a thousand years. The green elves had a negotiation with the red elves and Mrs. Claus and a tentative 1000 year agreement was reached. Mrs. Claus will be sporting green.

"It really is a very smart looking outfit," says Santa.



HO! HO! HO!

Santa Claus took time out of his busy Christmas schedule to make an appearance at Westglen School last Wednesday afternoon. He filled up on the tasty treats offered at the annual Turkey Dinner.

Another change occurring at the North Pole is the uncharacteristically warm weather. Santa says he believes it might have something to do with the global warming phenomenon.

"I do hope it doesn't get too warm or else the North Pole will melt and that just won't do."

Santa Claus, who reports his age to be around 3001 and his wife's to be about 2000, says he remembers long ago when things were different. He says in the year 1665, the world was much different than it is now.

"I remember it well because we almost lost our way because the world wasn't the right shape yet."

This year, he says, especially with Rudolph's extra bright nose (because he's in love), he won't have any trou-

ble finding the homes of all the children and delivering the appropriate toys.

He reports that in the Didsbury area, the little boys most often ask for video games and new cars. The little girls are asking for Barbie Dolls, electronic pets, horses and new cars.

Although Santa says new cars take the elves a very long time to build, he has come up with an interim solution, that he calls the "Dream Machine Seed." He says all you have to do to make the seed grow is to plant it in six inches of snow and keep it covered all year.

"Then, it is very important that you regularly imagine yourself driving the car. Your imagination is really the key and then you can go anywhere," says Santa.

"That is what Christmas is all about. Christmas is about

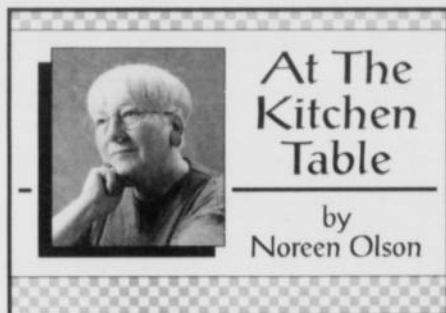
imagination and magic things," says Santa.

He says he expects the children will get just about everything that they have asked for.

"I am really very impressed with the people in the Didsbury, Cremona, Carstairs and area."

Santa had to conclude the interview at that point because he is very busy getting ready for Christmas Eve. But, he says he wishes all the boys and girls around the world, but especially of Didsbury and area a very Merry Christmas and best of season's greetings.

**Call Santa  
at NES-  
CREW!**



The Christmases of my childhood tend to blur into a soft collage of snowy landscapes, fragrant decorated trees, wonderful food, Christmas concerts, mandarin oranges, and family.

The Depression years were supposed to have ended before I was born but there were seven of us and never enough money so I know in my heart that our Christmases were quite simple but there were presents and a tree, a lot of love, some squabbling, and a wonderful dinner that began with a huge home grown turkey. When the turkey came brown and crackling from the oven Dad stroked knife to steel with such skill and speed that his hands blurred and the metals hummed.

There was dressing, gravy and whipped potatoes, turnips mashed with butter and brown sugar, home canned corn, several kinds of pickles, home made buns, cranberry jelly, and when you thought you couldn't eat another bite there was Mom's wonderful carrot pudding with enough caramel sauce that you could, if you had room, be given an extra spoonful.

From those long ago Christmases there are a number of images that come to my mind so clearly that I can almost smell and hear them, my brother Ronny hauling a too large tree into our too small living room, Mom stirring fudge on a wood stove and laughing as Dad leans in to inhale the chocolate vanilla aroma, their early morning voices as they stuffed the bird, Mom knitting socks or hemming a dress in the light of a coal oil lamp, Dad coming in on a gust of icy winter air and loading the kitchen table with bags and boxes of nuts and ribbon candy and mandarin oranges.

There was the Christmas that my older brothers made their first real money from their trucking business and filled the house with presents and the Christmas dinner when my fork slipped off a pickled onion and shot it into Auntie Georgia's lap.

The Christmas that I was seven my sister Marj gave me The Princess and Curdie. I read it last week and if I close my eyes I can almost smell it when it was new. While my eyes are closed, and if I am very still and quiet, all of us are in a sleigh on our way home from the Christmas concert. The rhythm of the horses hooves, starlight so brilliant as to inspire awe, runners creaking in fresh snow, blankets bundled to our chins, Dad holds the reins and he is tall, strong and invincible, Mom cuddles the newest blanket wrapped baby.

And then there was the Christmas that 2-year-old Dale was so ill that Mom opened his presents early in case he was not with us for Christmas day. He was and still is. There was the Christmas that someone opened the cellar door and one of the cousins fell in. She lives on as well.

The worst Christmas was probably the one when Dad skinned the horse. Dad bought and sold horses. Our school ponies and our work horses were like members of the family but some horses came and went so quickly that we did not get attached to them. Fortunately the horse who died on Christmas morning was a "fox meat" horse so we were at least spared the weeping and mourning part of its demise. The only value in a dead fox meat horse was in its hide and we could not afford to lose the money. While Mom banged pots, looked grim, and issued tight lipped orders Dad skinned the horse. We ate a silent non-festive dinner without him. It was early evening when I got dressed and went outside to see what was happening. By this time the hide was rolled and tied and I tried to help haul it into the barn. Half a horse's weight must be in its hide. I couldn't budge it an inch.

"Skinning the horse" has become a family code word for any activity that takes place at an inappropriate time. Last Sunday morning for reasons that are too pointless to explore I felt that I simply had to clean the fridge. When Ralph came in from morning chores and found the counter covered in containers and his Sunday serenity seriously shattered, he said very sweetly, "skinning the horse are we?"

I think one of the most valuable gifts that parents can give is the gift of good memories. If we remember our childhood as reasonably happy and secure then we tend to offer that level of comfort to our children.

My wish for you is that your Christmas memories are mostly happy ones and my prayer is that you are doing your very best to make happy memories for your children. Merry Christmas from my Kitchen Table.

## How to eat well and stay healthy over the holidays

The holiday season is often associated with family and friends enjoying meals together. It's a time when Canadians focus on food and make special menus to celebrate. Vegetables and fruit are an important part of our favourite recipes (vegetable casseroles, cranberry sauce, Christmas pudding), and there are other ways to add healthy food choices to the enjoyment of holiday eating.

Liz Pearson, dietitian and spokesperson for the "5 to 10 a day" campaign, has come up with a list of simple tips to help Canadians enjoy happy, healthy holidays:

**Decide To** - As obvious as it sounds, simply by making the decision to be more conscious of what and how much you eat this holiday season puts you well ahead of those people who approach holiday eating with unrestrained enthusiasm. Enjoy yourself, but think before you eat!

**Move Your Body** - Whether it's a family walk around the block or an afternoon skate at the local ice rink, the holidays are a time when burning extra calories becomes an absolute must. Make regular activity a priority in your daily plans. Take advantage of all the sports that winter has to offer, such as skating, skiing or tobogganing. Your waistline and your heart will thank you for it.

**Maintain, But Don't Gain** - Be realistic in your approach to holiday eating. Losing weight over the holidays, for example, is unreasonable for most and definitely no fun! Your best bet is to maintain your current weight or limit weight gain to no more than a pound or two (knowing you'll have to lose it later).

**Eat Light, But Don't Skip Meals** - While it's fine to eat a lighter breakfast or lunch prior to a large holiday meal, opting out of these meals entirely, most often leads to overeating. To avoid the "famine then feast" approach to eating, enjoy regular meals and even a light snack, such as a piece of fruit or some cut-up veggies, before the main meal is served.

**No Nibbling** - Do you find it difficult to walk through a busy kitchen without tasting everything in sight? Be careful - over the holidays, chronic nibbling can quickly lead to waistline expansion. Try chewing sugarless gum when you're in the kitchen or keep your nibbling healthy by having a bowl of baby carrots always within easy reach.

**Don't Sit Next to the Nut Bowl** - Appetizers are often a calorie disaster waiting to happen. While nuts, for example, are nutritious and healthful, a mere handful contains about 120 calories and 11 grams of fat. Your best friend at the appetizer table is the nutritious, delicious tray of veggies served with a low-fat dip. If you're invited to someone else's house, volunteer to bring a veggie tray to ensure healthy snacking for all.

**Make it a Family Affair** - Help the whole family make better food choices. Have plenty of fresh fruit around, keep tempting goodies like holiday chocolates or cookies out-of-sight most of the time, and replace holiday baking with holiday craft time (new ornaments for the Christmas tree are always welcome). You can also make each member of the family responsible for choosing one new and healthy recipe to try over the holiday season.

**Watch Your Portions and Go For the Veggies** - Come mealtime, take a little of everything and always start with less food than you want. Take more vegetables and less of higher fat foods like stuffing and gravy. Eat slowly while enjoying the conversation around you - and then decide if you really need more.

**Lighten Up Your Choices** - In addition to keeping tabs on your portion sizes, there are lots of things you can do to lighten up the traditional holiday meal. Take the skin off turkey (over one-third of the fat is in the skin) and choose white meat more often than dark. Instead of drowning your vegetables in butter, drizzle them with fresh lemon juice and a sprinkle of Parmesan cheese.

**Add a lower-fat dressing to your salad.** Cranberry sauce, applesauce, and chutney are great low-fat alternatives to gravy.

**Desserts - Take a Sliver** - If you love desserts as much as most people, enjoy them, but practice some restraint. Limit your selection to one or two items. Have a sliver instead of a slab. And resist the urge for second helpings. Last, but not least, don't forget the fruit. A tray of freshly sliced fruit is a refreshingly light and nutritious end to any meal.

"5 to 10 a day....Are You Getting Enough?" is a joint education and public awareness campaign by the Canadian Cancer Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association.

The campaign is designed to encourage Canadians to follow a healthy lifestyle, which includes eating between 5 to 10 servings of vegetables and fruit each day. Research shows that consumption of at least five servings of vegetables and fruit can help Canadians reduce their risk of cancer, heart disease and stroke.

These tips and other information are available through the campaign website at [www.5to10aday.com](http://www.5to10aday.com), or by calling the Canadian Cancer Society at 1-888-939-3333.

## Didsbury Library news

Check it out! Here are some books for the young people in the house to enjoy over the Christmas holidays: *Junie B. Jones and the yucky bluck fruit-cake* by Barbara Park. Junie B. Jones wins the Cake Walk at the Carnival Night, and the prize she picked is wrapped in sparkly aluminum foil. Junie B. Jones didn't know that inside the aluminum foil was a lethal weapon, or was it? Read the book to find out. *Amber Brown is not a crayon* by Paula Danziger. Amber Brown and Justin Daniels are best friends. They always do everything together, and they never call each other names. Then Justin Daniels has to move, and the fight begins. Will they work it out before Justin has to move? *Miss Malarkey won't be in today* by Judy Finchler. Everybody

has to get sick sometimes, even the teacher. Miss Malarkey is sick and Principal Wiggins has to call in a substitute. Who will Principal Wiggins get to teach? Miss Malarkey can't stand the idea of not knowing, so she heads to school sick, and is she in for a surprise. These are just a few good books to read over the holidays for the kids, come and find some more.

Thanks to all you faithful customers of the library that have brought in your library card. We are getting better and faster with this new system. Thanks for your patience. As we find out new things all the time, we hope to serve you better.

Season's Greetings from the "Scrooges" at the library:

• You must bring in your card in order to take books home.

• Overdue fines are up to 25

cents per item per library business day.

• If the book you are borrowing has a list of others waiting to read it (on reserve), you will only be allowed to have it for one week.

...and now from the "Santas":

• You can now borrow videos for one week, instead of just two days!

• Fines for videos are now only 25 cents per day, instead of \$1.00!

• If you are waiting for a book on reserve, your name will get to the top of the list faster!

The book sale is still going, and we are adding more books all the time, so come and buy a bag of books for a toonie. There are lots of choices for everyone. See you at the library.



# Letters to Santa from the Ross Ford 1B class

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for the sord last yer. Cod you giv me a jet please. Cod you giv me a Hot wheel please. Cod you giv my mom a new desk. Cod you giv my grampa a new truk please. We ned pec on this erth. How did you make the toys and u aer the most osm Santa Clos. How did you get in the chemne. Bey Santa Clos and hav a nis trip.

**Joshua Janz 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank u for the presents last cresses. Can u bren a tran this yir.  
Can u bren my mom a nio car. Bi Santa.

**Rhys Postma 1B**

**Der Santa,**  
Thakyou for my towe btflly last yer. Ple can u brin me ur brbe thisur ar sothn my Buorbe J Ben Bord my fed Jessie o Wotsa JoBen. Bi Santa

**Shayla Allen 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Tag u for ta Dol elsalr. S Dalr I latet wsa D BrB Deleoe Klos Doler Bring me. Can you Bring my Birather hot wheel. Can you bring the wrld food. How do the randere fly. How do you dringinc all the mlk. Bi.

**Meagan Kreuter 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thac yow for the chrasformr last year. Cen yow bring me pokemon Carbs. Cen yow bring mY mom a Desk. cod Yow bring the wrld som pes. haw do yow eyt all the food. haw do yow fliy the reindoer see you latr from Tyson.

**Tyson Newton 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thak u for a Brbe last yir. I wot a bene babe. Kan you git my mom a soing mashen. Bi Santa. I luv you. Kalista

**Kalista McCart 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thank you for the Bardey Sliprs last year. Cen you breg my bruthr a car. Keiyn you breing me a new brbay. Can you breing the Wotr Love. haw do fli. haw do you git too the huawsis. fli safle.

**Jessie Olmstead 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for the Barbe last yer. I wed whet a yoyo thes yesyr. ca you bre my brzr Jarre a dog. can you branig the wrld sum cleen wotr. How do you make the reindaer floi. haw make the toy. Good boee Santa.

**Danaka Hill 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for the preasants you gave me last year. Can you please bring me a pokemon or ginisr. Can you plesle bring my sister a barbe.

Could you bring the world love. Could you tell me how do you get around the world in one nite. How do the elfs make all the preants. Merry Christmas Santa.

**Cole Whittleton 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thank you four the barby theat you gavu me last eery. Jessie o wud like a new barby too. can you berig the wrold some pes. How do you eat all the cookez. can you berig the porpeple some food By Santa love you from Jessie T.

**Jessie Tevendale 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thac yow for the Snowresr thast yer. ths yer I wod link a chrasformr. Cod yuw being my bebey botr a ball. Cod yuw being the wrld som pes. Haw do the render flye. Haw do yuw eyt ola the Cokes and mk. See you leatr frum Braden.

**Braden Overwater 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thank you for the Dinoses. Thes yer I wot sum benbaloez. Can you get Zack sum benbaloe too. Can you breg the wrode sum love. Hal do you eat all the cokez and and mlce. Haw do you make all the prezis. bi Santa love Danny.

**Danny Pochapsky 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thak u for geven me Irnman last yer. thes yer I wd lic a hotwel. bren my mim a necles. ples breg the wrld sim wrtr. Hou doo you et all the kokex. Hou doo yoo drec all the mlc. gob bi Santa. Anthony.

**Anthony O'Reilly 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thank u for the b.bgun last yir. I would like a ftyrman theis yir. Wud u get a sord for my bruthr. Wil u giv the wrld foob for the porpel. I wot too no how the ranbir fluiy and haw do u et ol the cokez. Hav a grat tip Santa. Dakota.

**Dakota McKell 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thanc yon for the hocee stik. Theis crississ I wont a sooper reemotcontrolcar. Get mr. D a quob. Finde a cir for cansr. Haoow doo you get dan the chimne. Haoow doo you get randeer. Have a safe time Santa. Rob.

**Robert Alcorn 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you for my brbe last ur. ples can you bring me a brbe this ur. can you bring my mom a soing mashen. bring the wrld fod. How do you eat oll the kues how do the radur fiu. biy Santa Love Marie.

**Marie Onishenko 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
Thank you four the brbe last uer. Thes uer I wot a lscrmacr. My mom wod woot a cor, My dod wod woot a reng. My brzr wod woot a playcar. The wrld wod wod love. I love yuo Santa. haw bo the rarbes fli. How bo you eat the cuces. gdbie.

**Danielle Neergaard 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thank you for the poster last year. Cood you bring a play station for me. Can you bring my birather a trok. Can you bring the wrld food. How do the ranbere fly. How do you eate all that food we gave you. by Santa from Jordan.

**Jordan Reichenbacher 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thac yow for the Gpse last year. cude you brin me a cpudr. Ced you breg Mr o a cwod. haw do the randes fli haw do you eaea all the cuces. bie Santa.

**Lexi Clarke 1B**

**Dear Santa,**  
thac you for a rascr. ples brebn me a Dragin please. Cod you giv my mom a jowelbox. Cod you giv my Dad a new truk. We ned pec on this erth. haw did you eat all the coces. how do you drec all that melk. by Santa from Matthew.

**Matthew Bales 1B**

**CALL SANTA AT NES-CREW**

Season's  
Greetings  
from **VICTORIA**  
SQUARE MALL

*In the New Year,  
we look forward  
to serving our  
many customers.*

**GEARING  
UP FOR  
CHRISTMAS**

The Christmas season is here, and we hope yours runs smoothly from the front end to the back. We'd like to wish everyone a great Christmas with miles of smiles!

**McMANN AUTOBODY**

#8 Co-op Road  
Didsbury, AB. Bus. 335-3663



It's a pleasure  
to greet our friends  
at this time and  
wish you all  
the happiness the  
season can bring!

**H & R Pontiac Buick Ltd.**

**OLDS**

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**SAVOUR  
THE  
SEASON**

*We're brimming with  
warm wishes for a  
holiday that perks  
with joy.*



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**Santa Suggests....**

**Flowers**

*for a beautiful and festive holiday gift.*

**BEST Holiday Wishes  
To You All**

**Countryside** Main Street  
Didsbury, AB  
**FLORIST** 335-3444



**GLAD TIDINGS  
at Christmas!**

Best wishes to you and yours from the management & staff at

**Macy's**

Peter, Sharon, Niko-Jack, & Gina

# Over the counter remedy aids healthy New Year's resolutions for the upcoming year 2000

A national survey of physicians and dietitians suggests that Canadians are not consuming enough fibre despite recommendations from health care professionals. According to the survey, an overwhelming majority of general practitioners (82%) and dietitians (92%) believe that most Canadians need to double their intake of dietary fibre. The recommended fibre intake is 25-35 grams per day in order to meet the dietary requirements.

The survey also showed that there is confusion about the sources and benefits of different types of dietary fibre among some health professionals. More than 25% of physicians surveyed admitted they are not sure what types of fibre are provided by various foods. So although health professionals are recommending that Canadians eat more fibre, it is important that Canadians know which type of fibre is best and in which food sources they can find it.

Health Canada recently approved a new indication for Metamucil Fibre Therapy, a natural source psyllium fibre product, for treatment of mild to moderate hypercholesterolemia when combined with a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet. This approval was based on numerous clinical studies of up to six months. This is significant

in view of Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada statistics stating that 48% of Canadian men and 43% of Canadian women have elevated total cholesterol levels.

"Adding soluble fibre to the diet is a valuable addition to the tools available to treat mild to moderate high blood cholesterol," says Dr. George Fodor, Head of Research, Prevention and Rehabilitation Centre, University of Ottawa Heart Institute. "Health care professionals need to be aware that clinical research has shown psyllium reduces both total cholesterol and LDL (bad cholesterol) without lowering levels of HDL (good cholesterol) when used in conjunction with a low fat, low cholesterol diet. It is very important for people to consult their physicians to determine if they have elevated cholesterol levels and which treatment could benefit them."

Fibre facts - some tips to help achieve your New Year's resolutions:

- Dietary fibre or roughage is the part of a plant that cannot be digested or broken down by the human digestive system.

- Fibre is classified by whether or not it is soluble in water. Foods contain both soluble and insoluble fibre.

Soluble fibre swells when it is eaten and forms a gel-like structure that slows down the digestion of food and has an effect on blood cholesterol levels.

- Psyllium, a natural grain grown in India, has the highest soluble fibre content of any grain.

- Psyllium husk has eight times more fibre than oat bran.

- It is documented that soluble fibre, found in grains such as psyllium, oats, barley, seeds, legumes, including kidney beans not only slows the digestion of food, but can also help lower blood cholesterol. Insoluble fibre found in grain products such as whole wheat or wheat bran, potatoes and most vegetables promotes regularity but does not lower cholesterol.

According to the Ottawa Heart Institute, there are two ways to add fibre to the daily diet. First, enjoy a variety of foods as outlined in Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating. For example:

- Choose whole grain products more often.

- Opt more often for orange and dark green vegetables.

- Include enough soluble fibre in the diet. High soluble fibre choices are barley, psyllium fibre supplements, oats, dried peas, and beans.

As well, the Institute sug-

gests that people should consider other important aspects recommended for a healthy lifestyle:

- Avoid smoking and being exposed to second-hand smoke.

- Get regular physical activity and choose lower fat dairy products, leaner meats and foods prepared with little or no fat.

- Achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Although it has been docu-

mented that people should be consuming increased amounts of fibre, it is important that they consult a physician before making any changes to their diet. Through education, physical activity and proper diet, Canadians can lead healthier lifestyles. Adding soluble fibre, from natural sources like psyllium, is an important first step towards developing that healthier lifestyle.

## Museum musings

By Marg Weaver

We had another Auction Sale at the Mini Storage on the night of Midnight Madness. We did very well considering all that was going on that night.

Our tea for the Heritage Tour went well. We had close to 200 people come for refreshments - we had home-made goodies with tea, coffee and hot chocolate. It was a big day, and we were all tired out by 6 p.m. We were open from 10:30 in the morning.

We received lots of compliments, so we are sure we must have done something right, it was a nice pleasant day for the Tour and everyone seemed to enjoy their visits. Many made remarks on the beautiful homes - a lot of effort went into the displays and you should all be congratulated.

We had many out of town visitors according to our Guest Book. This Tour is becoming quite an event for both our Town and the Museum. It is a wonderful fund-raiser for us, and we enjoy the exposure we get. Margaret Fradley, the author of "Ponderings of the Heart" was in attendance, she said she really enjoyed talking to people and introducing her book.

The Museum will be closed over Christmas and New Years, the last day was on Dec. 17 and we will open again on Jan. 5.

If anyone wishes to visit during the days we are closed they can phone me at 335-4245 and I'll make sure someone will give them a tour.



All We  
Want For  
**Christmas**  
Is To  
Thank Our  
Many  
Wonderful  
Friends!

M.J. and Staff at  
**Kidsbury Day Care**

**A CHRISTMAS WISH  
FOR YOU**



May peace and  
happiness  
visit your  
home this  
holiday season.

Thank you  
for your  
patronage  
this past year.

**Hans & Edna Janssen**

**DIDSBURY APPLIANCE  
CENTRE**

#5, 2024-17 Ave., Didsbury **335-8067**



**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,  
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**  
- John 3:16

**FEEG'S  
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We'd like to join your family in celebrating the  
Miracle of His birth during this holiest of seasons.



**May the story of Christmas  
bring joy to you all!**

**Gordon & Shari Quantz & Family**  
**Quantz Sani-Systems**  
**335-3651**  
**Keep Christ in Christmas**



**From Our  
Family To Yours**

Our sincere best wishes for a sparkling  
holiday season. Thank you for giving us  
an extra reason to celebrate!

**From Brad, Craig & Bev**  
**Checker Auto Parts**  
**1802 - 20th Street, Didsbury**  
**335-3349**

**Joy  
to All**

"...There is a destiny that makes us brothers..."  
With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.



**Masterfeeds**  
A tradition of quality

**1217 - 20th Street, Didsbury**  
**335-8010**



# Faces

a brief glimpse of people and events in our community

Compiled by Colleen Horrigan



**Ray Lea - Mayor of Didsbury**

Ray's Top Five:

1. Probably right now our main focus is we'd like to see the Hospital acute care in Didsbury remain open. We'd like there to be more marketability in the Hospital and see it be utilized to its full potential. We're hoping to convince the board to give it enough time to show that.

2. I'd like to see continued growth in the area. There were 51 new single family dwellings built this year, and there has been growth in residential and industry. We've got new industry coming in, and this makes new industry jobs for people coming into the community. We want jobs for the youth so that they will stay in the community, and there's a need for more education.

3. We want to have the RCMP station up and running probably by the year 2001 or sooner. That's even giving it extra time in case it goes slower than planned.

4. I'd like to see us maintain, or if at all possible, lower the mill rate so we can become more competitive with surrounding areas.

5. We all hope that the people of Didsbury personally - health and job-wise - can prosper in the New Year.

**Malcolm Profitt - Chair of the Ministerial Association**

"I think from the perspective of ministerial, I think we are all concerned about the Hospital situation in our community and I think we would like to do what we can about that. I'm personally concerned about the health care system in the province. I don't appreciate the drive to privatization and I don't think it serves anybody well. I would like to preserve the public health care system we have.

With all the hype around the millennium, I'd like to emphasize that each day is precious and what makes for our welfare in the millennium is the same as what makes for our welfare every day.

As far as I'm concerned, and I hope most other members of the ministerial association would agree, that if you live each day as your last, you realize that all the unimportant stuff doesn't matter very much."



**Roy Brassard - School Board Chair**

"The first priority on the school board is one of a safe and caring environment for our children to learn in and ensure that they're given every opportunity to enable them to reach their potential. Basically, it's living up to our motto "Let Students Come First" and that's a full-time job.

I believe we're very fortunate in our division to have a very capable staff and a very dedicated board.

There are a few issues that we're dealing with right now. The Department of Education has changed its mandate and now the infrastructure is different. The provincial government has freed up some dollars recently so we're trying to make sure those dollars are spent as judiciously as we can."



**Jim Turner - HA5 Board**

"I would really like to thank everybody who has communicated with me their hopes and concerns, and to ensure them as much as possible that it hasn't fallen on deaf ears.

"My resolution would be: I will do my best to help the people in the county to realize their hopes and prayers.

"I just hope that everybody will have a very prosperous and rewarding New Year."



**Ian Harvie - Mountain View County Reeve**

New Mountain View County Reeve, Ian Harvie, is expecting a prosperous upcoming new year for the county.

"We will be looking at economic growth for the county. We want stronger cooperative intermunicipal growth. Water management annexation issues will be looked at. We are fully aware that partnerships are healthy for both municipalities - urban and rural," Harvie said.

"In the New Year, you'll be seeing a number of challenges going in front of council. The sleeping county of Mountain View isn't that anymore."

"We've got to address substantially more than the councils in the past."

Harvie says that he wants the ratepayers of the county to feel that they can approach council at any time, on any issue.

"Openness is a key factor for Mountain View County."

**Richard Marz - MLA**

"The number one issue on my plate right now is finding a satisfactory resolution to the Didsbury Hospital situation and to see what can be done about removing a cloud of uncertainty that's been affecting the Hospital and the community for the last five years or so. I think by working with the community and the board, hopefully this can be accomplished.

The other thing I feel needs high priority is to continue looking at innovative ways of delivering service in Alberta. We've got challenges like an aging population and I'm part of that. Especially in health, there's a lot of changes with new technology and new treatments and the health care system is improving. Although it's a challenge, it's also an exciting time to think of ways to deliver the best possible service to Albertans.

With the Didsbury Hospital, if we put our thinking caps on, there's a way we can become part of that solution.

Another priority of mine is looking at ways we can improve the agriculture sector. Basically, we've got a crisis in agriculture due to low commodity prices. There's things we can do on a provincial level and I'm certainly committed to working on that."



## Millennium Resolutions

**Myron Thompson - MP**

Myron's Top Ten:

1. I want to do what I can to make certain that we maintain a good health care system in this country, and a good education system.

2. We need to as quickly as possible get a long-term solution to the farmers' problem that we run into year after year - to keep that industry alive and vigorous.

3. I hope we can continue working on the judicial system so we can turn it around so it's not so easy on crime and criminals.

4. I want to stimulate the economy with a high priority on debt reduction and tax reduction.

5. I will be watching closely all Indian affairs and dilemmas we face as a result of the Nishka Treaty, and want to see some things resolved regarding reserves.

6. I want to keep on top of issues with respect to parks...to enable people to enjoy the parks we have and maintain them.

7. I want to convince the government to re-establish the defence department of our nation - if we are going to take part in peacekeeping around the world this is an important issue.

8. I want to continue working in the family caucus, making sure everything that goes through the House of Parliament will have a strengthening effect on the family unit.

9. I want to protect the freedoms we have come to appreciate in this country.

...and last but not least,

10. Somewhere in the new millennium, I want to bounce the Liberals out of government, and that would solve a lot of the other problems we have in this country.



# Is your computer ready for the year 2000?

If you already consider your home and your small business computer "Y2K-ready," you might want to think again. The Gartner Group, one of the world's leading authorities on information technology, estimates that 55% of small companies worldwide will have at least one system failure as a result of the change in date to 2000. So, before you sit back and watch the millennium dawn, remember that a quick review can help you gauge the effectiveness of your Y2K strategy or at least help to minimize the risks.

As you are most likely aware, the 'Millennium Bug,' (which the technology industry has dubbed the Y2K issue), has its origins in the formative years of computing. Essentially, the problem is your computer's inner-workings will fail to interpret the "00" as the year 2000, but will assume that it is now the year 1900. This could affect any time-sensitive programs or data that are stored on the hard drive. Also, your computer may not recognize the year 2000 as a leap year, which could also have serious implications for time sensitive programs and information.

The prevalence of computers in our society has made the Millennium Bug a truly global affliction that can affect virtually every computing environment. It is the scope of this dilemma which makes it

so challenging but for the home PC owner, it's relatively simply to manage.

There are three key components of any Y2K readiness program. Working through each step can help to guarantee a painless rollover to the new year.

- Take stock of your system: Remember to fully inventory your computing environment. The millennium bug can affect software, hardware, and peripheral devices. Technology companies offer tools to help with PC analysis. Microsoft is offering a free download from its web site at [www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k](http://www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k) called the Year 2000 Product Analyzer. This product helps PC owners assess the readiness of their computer system by conducting an inventory of Microsoft software installed on their PC.

- Do your research: Determine the complacency of everything. A quick visit to a manufacturer's web site can provide you with upgrade information, contact numbers, and peace of mind.

- Leave no stone unturned: Always apply software updates and fixes to maintain your computing environment. In most instances, these updates are available free of charge directly from the manufacturer via the web. Just as important, adopt "best practices" that will minimize your risk regarding date handling - both now and in the

future, such as remembering to enter four-digit year information. This process will help to teach your computer to differentiate between dates.

It is also important to remember the technology industry is committed to helping home and small business customers address Year 2000 issues by providing resources to help customers get ready. For instance, software manufacturer Microsoft Canada is providing a Year 2000 Guide for Home Computer Owners located at [www.year2000.msn.ca](http://www.year2000.msn.ca). Visitors to this site will learn how to assess the compliance of their own personal computer and how to take action to make their system compliant. The Microsoft Year 2000 Resource Centre, located at [www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k](http://www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k), has been designed to offer comprehensive information about Microsoft products and how they are affected by the Year 2000. As well, Microsoft has partnered with leading antivirus firms to provide free antivirus software that will help increase protection against Y2K-related viruses, hoaxes and other malicious files. The antivirus software can be found at [www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k](http://www.microsoft.com/canada/y2k).

Remember, as the year draws to a close, the most important thing you can do to ensure Y2K-readiness is to

increase your understanding of the year 2000 issue as it relates to your personal computer and the software programs you use. You'll then be in a better position to consider

your own system, determine which areas may be at risk, and based on how you use your PC, choose the actions that make the most sense for you.

## Holiday trimmings can be hazardous

Visiting or entertaining this holiday season? Keep safety first in mind for everyone by watching out for these often-forgotten culprits that can ruin the fun.

### Plants:

- Holly and mistletoe are poisonous, but intrigue young children and pets, so you'll need to keep plants out of reach.

- There are a number of less common, but equally enjoyed, holiday plants that are also poisonous: amaryllis, azalea, boxwood, castor bean, Christmas rose, crown of thorns, English and American ivy, Christmas cherry, mountain laurel and poke weed.

- Some of the berries from these plants are also poisonous and fall off easily as the plant ages. Be diligent about discarding berries when they fall to the floor.

### Food and drink:

- Children are curious and are likely to try neglected alcohol drinks, so clear away glasses regularly. Also, keep common baking ingredients like vanilla and almond extracts that contain alcohol out of reach of children.

- Throw away food containing perishable meats, seafood or eggs that has been sitting in a warm room for more than three hours.

### All of the trimmings:

Do not burn wrapping paper or let young children or pets chew on it, because it may contain lead or other toxic ingredients.

### Keep an eye on your ears:

If parties are part of your celebrations, ask the band or DJ to keep the volume lower to protect your hearing.

If your child swallows something you are concerned about, like plants, pills, cigarettes, chemicals or such, you can call the Provincial Poison Centre at 1-800-332-1414 or in an emergency, call 911. The number is also listed in the front of most telephone books.

## Christmas is just Around the Corner

All over town, people are enjoying the beauty of the season with their near and dear ones. We'd like to send our best wishes for wonderful holidays to our friends everywhere!

Merry Christmas  
from the  
Mayor, Councillors  
and the Staff of the  
Town of Didsbury.



### WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

May you enjoy all the splendor and wonder  
of this magical season.  
We really enjoy having neighbors like you!

from  
Pete, Louise,  
Sylvia & Tony Molenaar  
at

**MOLENAAR ENTERPRISES LTD.**  
**335-8965**



## MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Dr. David Chorkwa  
and Staff at the

**Didsbury Dental Centre**  
**335-3855**



## Silent Night

May this holy season blanket you and your  
loved ones with warmth and contentment.  
Merry Christmas from all of us.

**BURNS SCHOOL  
OF MUSIC LTD.**

L. Trick  
Didsbury 335-8563



... while visions of sugar plums danced  
in their heads

**Didsbury Photo**  
2021 - 19 Ave.  
335-8600

Closed from Dec. 24 to Dec. 29



### Blessings

On this  
Holy Christmas,  
may you find a child's  
hope for tomorrow, a  
child's faith in his fellow  
being, a child's belief in  
the future, and a child's  
trust in God's love.

**Craigs Clothing & Dry Goods**  
**556-3717**

5102 - 50 Ave, Olds



## Travelling outside of Canada tips

Returning to Canada after a trip abroad means stopping at customs. You can clear customs quickly and with minimal disruption if you keep some tips in mind.

To prove your citizenship and residency, customs officers may ask you for identification. This could include items such as a birth certificate, Quebec baptismal certificate, passport, citizenship card, record of landing, or a Certificate of Indian Status. If you are travelling with a child who is not your own, the child should have his or her own identification, and you need a note from the parents or guardians granting you permission to have the child with you.

If you are not sure what to declare when you arrive at customs, declare the items first and then discuss them with the officer.

The North American Free Trade Agreement is now in full force. As a result, American-made goods you bring back from the United States have no customs duty. However, duties may still apply for goods manufactured in other countries. As well, there are quantity or dollar restrictions on some agricultural goods such as dairy products and turkey. Amounts in excess of these quantities are subject to very high duty rates. Please contact your local customs office for further information on these products.

In addition to customs duties, you may be required to pay the goods and services tax or the harmonized sales tax on your purchases. Residents of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec entering through their home province must also pay the provincial sales tax.

You do not have to pay duties or taxes if you qualify for one of the following personal exemptions:

If you have been outside Canada for:

- 24 hours, you can bring in \$50 CAD worth of goods free of duty and tax; (please note: if you exceed \$50 CAD, the entire amount is subject to duties and taxes).

- 48 hours, you can bring in \$200 CAD worth of goods free of duty and tax.

- 7 days or more, you can bring in \$750 CAD worth of goods free of duty and tax.

Restrictions apply to the amount of alcohol and tobacco you can bring into Canada under your exemption.

If you have been outside Canada for at least 48 hours and are of legal age, you can bring in the following amounts of alcohol and tobacco products free of duty and tax as part of your personal exemption:

Alcoholic beverages:

- 1.14 L (40 oz.) of liquor

OR

- 1.5 L (52 oz.) of wine or wine coolers OR

- 24 x 355 ml (12 oz.) containers of beer.

Tobacco products (all of the following):

- 200 cigarettes
- 200 g (7 oz.) of loose tobacco
- 50 cigars, and
- 200 tobacco sticks.

If you bring in more than the free allowance of alcohol or tobacco, you will have to pay the applicable duties and taxes. In some cases, provincial or territorial limits and assessments may also apply.

Handguns and weapons like mace and pepper spray are prohibited from entering Canada. For more information, please see our pamphlet, Importing a Firearm or Weapon into Canada.

You cannot bring some fruits, vegetables, meats, or plants into Canada from other countries.

You should also note that some exotic items like conch, coral, and reptilian leather require an export permit from the originating country, while some items like ivory are considered as coming from endangered species and are not permitted entry to Canada.

If you take jewellery with you on your trip outside Canada, carry an appraisal report, certified photographs, and the bill of sale for the purchase (when available). These documents will prove that you did not buy the jewellery out of the country.

## Keeping Alberta roads safe this holiday season

The party season is upon us and it is up to all of us to encourage positive and reliable alternatives to drinking and driving. With a little common sense and planning ahead we can help combat the impaired driving problem on our roads.

Tips for responsible hosting:

- If you're hosting a party, plan ahead to make sure everyone gets home safely.

- Provide beverages other than alcohol when serving drinks and measure the alcohol so guests know how much they're consuming.

- Serve high protein food such as cheese, nuts or meat to slow down the rate at which the body absorbs alcohol.

- Plan activities and make sure that drinking is not the principle activity.

- Use non-carbonated mixers as carbonated mixers speed the absorption of alcohol in the body.

- Be sure intoxicated guests get home safely by appointing designated drivers, creating a key drop system or offering alternate modes of transportation home.

Remember, as the host, you may be held legally liable for damages caused by an impaired driver who overindulged at your party.

If you plan to drink, plan to get a ride. Smart choices like designating a driver or using alternate modes of transportation will prevent tragedy and further promote safety on our streets.

- Wherever you socialize - private homes, licensed establishments or at special events - the key is to plan ahead.

- Decide who will not drink any alcoholic beverages before and during an outing.

- Take turns being the designated driver - look after your friends and they'll look after you.

- Larger groups should have more than one designated driver.

Keeping Alberta's roads safe during this holiday season, and all year long, is everyone's responsibility, so use common sense and make the smart choice. Don't drink and drive.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

May all your hopes and dreams come true this holiday season and beyond.

Many thanks and merry Christmas!

from the staff at the  
**ROYAL BANK**  
Didsbury Branch

**HALLELUJAH!**

May the spirit of the season fill your heart with bundles of peace and contentment.

We appreciate the gift of your kind patronage.

**Derksen Meat Processing**

Del & Sylvia Derksen  
**335-2396**

**Wishing You A Gifted Season**

May love, joy, contentment and good fortune be yours to cherish this holiday season and beyond.

Have a Great Christmas and we hope to see you in the New Year.

**Cut 'n Loose Hair Design**

Closed Dec. 25 - 28 & Jan. 1 - 3

2017B - 19 Ave., Didsbury **335-3686**

**CATCH THE SPIRIT!**

Wishing you and yours a healthy and happy holiday season!

**College Green Medical Centre**

Dr. Scott Holder  
Dr. Richard James  
Dr. M. Puts  
Dr. C. Vervaeck  
and Staff

May the glad news of Christmas bring joy to everyone!

Thank you for your patronage.

**R★Star Photos**  
Larry & Robbie Lentz

**Merry CHRISTMAS**

Hope Christmas brings the best of times, above and beyond your expectations.

We look forward to serving you, our friends and neighbours, all through the new year.

Alan, Joyce, Elaine & Dave

**Mountain View Sports Excellence**

Chain Store Prices, Family Store Service

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Didsbury, Alberta T0M 0W0

# Mount View Lodge Christmas news

By Annie Caush

Hi all! Well here we are again with the last "news" before Christmas and our good weather is still with us. Hope you are all able to miss the flu that seems to be around.

Here at the Lodge we're already busy with pre-Christmas activities. The Auxiliary Ladies came and did their usual good job of decorating our Lodge. Hope you can come and see it over the holidays. After they did the decorating, the Ladies enjoyed dinner with the Residents and in the afternoon hosted the December Birthday Party. We sang Christmas carols accompanied by Mr. Keith Ingram at the piano and then enjoyed cake and goodies provided by the Auxiliary.

Believe it or not we have 12 birthdays in December. They are Susan Harvey, Ivy Colley, Heber Black, Mildred Fletch, Daisy Rickey, Laura Watkins, Owian Carlson, Kay Skocdopole, Harry Harper, Bob Gathercole, Doris Robertson and Dorothy Paton. Sadly, Ivy Colley passed away a few days after her birthday. We extend sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

The Reed Ranch School students came in one day and did

part of their Christmas program and handed out lovely handmade cards to each Resident. Thanks so much!

As usual the first Wednesday of the month the Catholic Ladies came in and called Bingo and passed out oranges and chocolates to everyone. Thanks very much!

Last Friday we had our Annual Residents Banquet. Our cooks prepared a lovely turkey dinner with all the trimmings. It was nice they were able to sit down with us and enjoy being served by our very capable OHS grad class. They did a super job of serving and also contributed several special numbers to our entertainment.

We also had Country Sugar and Spice to entertain us and they always do such a lovely program. To conclude, the CEO of the Mountain View Management Board Mr. King favoured us with two solos. Thanks very much everyone!

We, the Residents of Mount View Lodge wish all our readers a blessed Christmas season.

Merry Christmas and  
Season's Greetings  
from Cam, Nan & staff

**Specialties  
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Didsbury, AB  
335-4830



*Yuletide Greetings*

Christmas just wouldn't be Christmas  
without good friends to share it with.  
Thank you for being ours.

Kevin & Staff at  
**Didsbury Meat Processors**  
**335-3848**

With Appreciation  
At Christmastime

Christmas is a time for giving, and we'd  
like to give our thanks to all of you who  
have given us so much this past year.  
Happy Holidays!

Dave & Nettie  
Neustaeter  
& Staff

**Country Nook  
Restaurant**  
at the

**Didsbury Motel** 335-3159



**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**



We're putting on the dog to say,  
Hope your season's purr-fect in every way.  
And to all our best friends far and near,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**K&P & BONE**  
PET BOARDING  
LTD.  
**335-4409**

A Chorus of Thanks



Patti, Edith,  
Janeen, Karen,  
& Linda at

**Sending You  
Warm Wishes!**

We want to express  
our sincere appreciation  
for your loyalty and  
patronage throughout  
this past year.

To all of our friends  
and neighbors, we wish  
you a wonderful holiday  
season, filled with much  
happiness and love.

**Carlson Wagonlit Travel™**

DON'S WORLD TRAVEL SERVICE LTD  
335-3351 • 443-2121 • 263-2818

Merry  
Christmas

FROM  
OUR FAMILY  
TO YOURS



We always make it our policy to offer sincere  
best wishes and heartfelt thanks to all of those  
who have helped to insure our success.

We really appreciate your trust in us.

(403) 335-3365 Calgary Direct  
(403) 263-2267

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AGENCIES LTD.**

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ALBERTA REGISTRIES

Vance, Edna, Marion, Cobi,  
Raece, Lorraine & Millie

**Christmas Hours**

Dec. 24.....	9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dec. 25-27.....	Closed
Dec. 28-30.....	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Dec. 31.....	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Jan. 1.....	Closed
Jan. 2.....	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Jan. 3.....	1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Merry Christmas**

**AG  
FOODS**  
DIDSBURY

WISHING EVERYONE ALL THE  
BEST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND THROUGHOUT THIS  
VERY SPECIAL NEW YEAR.  
MANY THANKS TO ALL  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
AND CONTINUED  
PATRONAGE!



From  
Al & Charlene



*Glory to the  
Newborn King*

May the miracle of Christmas be yours to cherish,  
filled with the gifts of happiness, family and friends.  
We feel gifted to count you among ours.

A joyous Noel to one and all.

Jim & Jan Myhre & family

**335-3377**

**RE/MAX**  
real estate (mountain view) ltd.



## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Linda, Enid,  
Evelyn, Pauline, Kari,  
Anne, Elaine,  
Jodi & Kim

335-8088

## Check your insurance

Insurance for most perils is readily available for homes and their contents; businesses, stock and equipment; farm buildings, livestock and equipment; and vehicles of all types. Check regularly with your insurance agent or broker to ensure you have appropriate and adequate insurance coverage, including any extensions in coverage that may be available.

- Coverage is available for most major disasters such as fire, lightning strikes, windstorms, hail, tornadoes and others. Overland flood coverage can be added to business policies, but is not generally available for homeowners.

- Most policies can include coverage for damage caused by sewer back-up. Make sure your policy includes sewer back-up insurance.

- Keep a detailed paper and/or photographic/video inventory of your residence or business. Keep it in your emergency kit. It will be invaluable in the event of loss.

- Make sure your insurance policies and related records are in a safe location and easily available after an emergency or disaster.

- The Insurance Bureau of Canada has information on all aspects of insurance. Their toll-free number for Alberta is 1-800-377-6378.

- Know what your insurance company requires, should you need to make a claim.

- Be aware that government disaster recovery programs will not compensate for damage and loss for which insurance was readily and reasonably available before the disaster occurred.

## Clearly a time to celebrate.



Steve Fillmore  
335-8987 (bus.)  
335-9838 (res.)

*Season's Greetings to my  
friends & clients, and best  
wishes for a prosperous  
new millennium!*



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## NOEL



May the peace of our  
Saviour abide in every  
heart this holy Season.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas  
and God's Blessing in the New Year.

**Gordon & Elmeda Hartmann**

Thank You To All Our Customers  
For Your Patronage In 1999

**MacKay's Processing Plant**  
335-3677



Wishing You A Home  
Filled With Love  
And Laughter  
- All The Good Things  
Of The Season!

From Gerry, Barb, Pam, Lisa, Dalene & Kim  
**Mountain View Credit Union**  
Didsbury

*We belong to you.*

## Season's Greetings



Celebrate  
an old-  
fashioned  
Christmas  
surrounded  
with the  
ones you  
love.  
Good  
tidings to  
all our fine  
patrons.

CO-OP

From the Board of Directors,  
Management and Staff

**OLDS CO-OP FOOD  
SHOPPING CENTER**

Have a safe & happy holiday season



From Bill, Brenda, Norm & Roscoe

**RES-Q TOWING**  
Phone 335-8202





# Minister confident that health sector ready for 2000

As we begin to count down the days to the Year 2000, Albertans can be confident that their health system is ready for the rollover to the new millennium, is the conclusion from the most recent readiness update from Alberta's Regional Health Authorities. The report indicates that as of the end of October:

- 98% of mission critical equipment and machines such as heart monitors and intravenous pumps had been tested and have been found to be year 2000 compliant or have been replaced. The remaining 2% will be remediated before Dec. 31, or a workaround procedure will be in place until year 2000 compliance can be achieved.

- 99% of critical premise equipment and machines such as environmental controls and lighting and security systems were ready for the year 2000. The remaining 1% will be remediated before Dec. 31, or a workaround procedure will be in place until year 2000 compliance can be achieved.

- 93% of all desk-top systems had undergone the required repair or replacement and there is every confidence that the remaining 7% will be replaced before year end.

"Although the vast majority of work is complete, year 2000 preparations will continue to be a priority issue. The Regions will continue to monitor machines and equipment that are essential in the delivery of critical health services and will continue to address any issues that may arise," said Jonson.

An important component of each Region's year 2000 preparations is the development and testing of their contingency plans through simulation exercise. All Regions have completed their contingency

plans and the last test was scheduled for Dec. 15. Regions have worked closely with Y2K Alberta in the testing of their plans.

Although there has been an incredible amount of effort and resources allo-

cated to year 2000 activities throughout Alberta's health sector, and more than 40,000 pieces of equipment have been tested, there are no guarantees as to what will happen on Jan. 1, 2000. We

are, however, confident that there will be no disruption to essential services as a result of the "Millennium Bug". Regional staff are prepared to handle any eventuality.

The government of Al-

berta is acknowledged as a leader in addressing year 2000 issues in the health sector in Canada. In 1998 the government allocated over \$170 million to the Alberta health regions to address year 2000 con-

cerns and an additional \$33 million was made available in February 1999 to ensure that the required funds for year 2000 activities in Alberta's health sector were available if needed.

OFFERS  
END DEC. 31

## Hello 2000



**\$2000 Cash Back on  
F-150, Explorer & Windstar\***  
Our best deal ever on our best selling vehicles.

## Goodbye 1999



**0% 48 Month  
Factory Financing on Remaining '99s\***

Save up to \$4000 compared to borrowing at prime rate\*. Brand new 1999 vehicles at prices that - like this century - will never happen again.

AMOUNT FINANCED OVER 48 MO.	MONTHLY PAYMENT AT PRIME RATE (8.5%)	MONTHLY PAYMENT AT FORD RATE (0%)	TOTAL SAVINGS OVER 48 MO.
\$30,000	\$711.46	\$625.00	\$4,148.80
\$25,000	\$592.87	\$520.83	\$3,457.92
\$15,000	\$395.72	\$312.50	\$2,074.56

\*Based on prime as of Dec. 5, 1999



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View MOTORS Ltd.**  
2202 - 20 Street, Didsbury





## The upside of downtime

By Marilyn Logan

Knowing that the demise of national railway travel was imminent, I decided to treat my children and mother to a lengthy train ride one Christmas. We would visit my brother in northern Ontario. The weather turned bitterly cold just before our departure, and below normal temperatures tagged us as we chugged through the prairie provinces. Delays, breakdowns and frozen water pipes became so common that we wondered if we were doomed to set up permanent residence on this rocking beast. Weather and freezing machinery would not deter the train's eventual arrival in White River, however. Planting our feet on steady ground felt impossibly delightful. Unfortunately we still had an hour's drive along a slippery snowpacked highway to reach my brother's home in Wawa.

The day of our departure arrived all too soon. A heavy snowfall had started the previous day. Remembering the troubles we had had trying to reach White River, I started calling Toronto early to try to determine whether the train would arrive on schedule. I was unable to touch base with a human voice. At various times during the day, a taped message relayed numerous versions of the train's delays. As the afternoon progressed and drifts built steadily higher, my inner voice took charge. For some reason I felt a compelling urge to hit the highway immediately. Stuffing presents, winter coats, children and adults into my brother's Volkswagon was no easy task. Neither was the skill needed to plow down that eerily quiet northern highway.

By the time we finally arrived in White River my whole body was tense. The urgency I had felt to leave Wawa had magnified tenfold. My instinct proved to be correct. A quick glance told me that the station was empty. My eyes then travelled down the tracks. Sure enough, the light of our train was slowly disappearing into dense bush. In desperation I dislodged myself from beneath presents and children and bolted from the car. As I threw open the station door I yelled to the station master, "Please do something! You've got to stop that train!" Frustratingly slowly, the man looked up and asked my name. When I told him who I was, he informed me that the train had already waited twenty minutes for our arrival. It hadn't been able to stay any longer.

"But you've got to do something," I begged. "Tell the engineer to come back." I knew this idea wouldn't sit well, but I had to try it anyway. As if in slow motion the man picked up a telephone and muttered something into the receiver. Replacing it, he told me that the train would stop at a secluded crossing down the tracks. It would wait there for fifteen minutes. The station master also informed me that we would have to take a remote cutline to get to the crossing. I was in despair. Remembering the Christmas spirit, the man let his eyes drift to a young man standing nearby. "Go with them will you, Hank."

The stranger and I raced back to the car. Squishing another body into our already cramped quarters seemed impossible. Somehow we got the door closed and the man gave directions. "Do you have a four wheel drive?" he asked my brother. "You'll need it." I choked. As it turned out we were fine. With all the extra weight we were able to break trail through the bush clumsily. We located the lights of the dome car shimmering through the trees fourteen minutes later. The conductor waited in the doorway as we literally fell out of the car. Grabbing luggage and parcels, we high stepped our way through the snowbanks and boarded the train. Perspiration trickled from my forehead as I sank heavily into one of the lounge seats. As the train started to roll, the conductor looked at me quizzically. "I don't know who you're married to, ma'am, but this train never stops for anyone." My feminist side refused to take the bait. Instead I just smiled innocently. Thanks to several helping hands we had made it.

Moral: A kind heart has the power to stop a rolling locomotive.

# More letters to Santa

Dear Santa,

How are you and Mrs. Claus and the elves? I hope the reindeer are ready to go! I would like a Barbie, a Parent Trap CD and Lion King and Arther computer games. Hope you have a safe trip and Merry Ckhrstmas.

Laura-Mackensie

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? Ples my I Hav an elaf glas doll? I Hav bin gud. I Hop you Hav a Merry Christmos.

Kaysha

Dear Santa,

How is ? Rudolph How is ? Mrs. Claus How are you please give me top corner hockey.

Taylor

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? Thank you fur The fire station. Can I huav a sony pla sastr. Sumtim I im Biad. Sumtim I im guit.

Sean

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? Please bring me the new Backstreet boys and the Britney Spears CD. I bein good.

Nicole

Dear Santa,

How are the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? How is Rudolph? Please bring me Stars Wars lego. Cole and Keegan think yor nis.

Cole

Dear Santa,

How are you. I like the gifts you gav me last gear. If you can gav me a robot that kan do my work.

Emily

Dear Santa,

Please can I hav sum pokemon kards uv Pekachew and Charsard and Lickatongue. I've been gud all week.

James

Dear Santa,

How are Mrs. Claus and Rudolph? Please brig me a dog, a real dog. I've been good.

Martine

Dear Santa,

How are you? Please bring a nintendo four me. Please give Joey a train sat.

Zachary

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph? Please can I Hav a sone play stashon? Please can I hav star was. I hav ben good. Santa hav a good trip!

Stephen

Dear Santa,

How is Rudolph? Can you see rainbows? Can you plase bring me a Airhog. My mom likes art. Devon wants a fake vacuum.

Brandon

**Talk to Santa at NES-CREW**

Best Wishes for a festive season filled with treasured memories. From all of us at Alberta Treasury Branches.

Didsbury, AB 335-3386  
Carstairs, AB 337-3345

Alberta Treasury Branches

To everyone in our Health District served by

**DIDSBURY, DRUMHELLER, SIKSIKA NATION, HANNA/CEREAL, STRATHMORE AND THREE HILLS as well as LINDEN NURSING HOME,**

we wish you good health and much happiness this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

The support and co-operation demonstrated by you our clients over the past year is most appreciated.

Board, Administration & Staff Health Authority 5

Didsbury Office 335-9393  
Head Office 823-5245



## Dashing Through The Snow

We're bringing you our best wishes for a good old-fashioned Christmas, filled with fun, friends and family! Have a wonderful holiday!

Best Wishes to all our friends in the community

Gordie Reimer & Staff

**REIMER**  
INTERNATIONAL INC.

335-9500

## About two thousand years ago

...Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be born as a baby. Later He sacrificed Himself on a cross for mankind. May you remember to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas this year. Wise men still seek Him.

May the truth of Christmas be with you through the New Year

**TRU-SQUARE HOMES**

335-8219





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Announcements:

Anniversary,  
Births,  
Birthday,  
Engagement,  
Weddings  
Obituaries  
Card of Thanks  
Prayer Corner  
Memorial  
Graduation

You can now place your  
**LOST & FOUND ADS**  
**FREE**  
in the Didsbury Review!

## ANNIVERSARY

ERNE AND MURIEL  
HOEFT

*Congratulations on your  
50th Wedding Anniversary.*



*With love from your family.*

## BIRTHDAY

**LORDY  
LORDY**



**JIM QUANTZ IS  
40!**

## MEMORIALS

IN LOVING MEMORY of our stepdad,  
Ted Nelson, who passed away Dec. 23,  
1992.

Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, unheard,  
But always near.  
Still loved, still missed  
Still very dear.  
Forever remembered, Jacqueline and  
Shannon.

IN MEMORY OF Teddy Ross Nelson,  
Dec. 23, 1992.

Wonderful memories woven in gold,  
This is a picture I tenderly hold,  
Deep in my heart, a memory is kept,  
To love, to cherish, never forget.  
Lovingly remembered by your wife  
and best friend, Jessie.

## CARDS OF THANKS

A SPECIAL thank you to my family,  
relatives, friends and neighbours for  
the wonderful 50th birthday celebra-  
tion. A special thanks for the gifts and  
cards. It was greatly appreciated. Dick  
Murphy. 36-11

*I LOVE THOSE dear hearts and gen-  
tle people who live in my home town.*  
To all who in sharing, caring and the  
many helping hands at the time of my  
fall and during healing and recovery,  
my sincere thank you. To each of you  
special blessings at the closing Christ-  
mas of our century. *Goodness, pros-  
perity, love and joys in 2000!* Mary  
Ann Jakobsen. 36-11

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASSIFIED DIRECTORY

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Phone: (403) 335-3301  
Fax: (403) 335-8143

## 08 CAREER TRAINING

BE A SUCCESSFUL Writer. Write  
for money and pleasure with our  
unique home-study course. You get  
individual tuition from professional  
writers on all aspects of writing -  
romances, short stories, radio and  
TV scripts, articles and children's  
stories. Send today for our free book.  
Toll free 1-800-267-1829, fax 1-613-  
749-9551. The Writing School, 3331  
- 38 McArthur Ave., Ottawa, ON,  
K1L 6R2. awna

LEARN THE ART of Taxidermy for  
2000. Hands-on workshop based  
training. Beginner to advanced. Call  
1-800-661-9544 toll free for infor-  
mation package. Taxidermy  
Specialty Training Centre, Calgary,  
Alberta. awna

ENVIRONMENTAL Reclamation  
Worker Certificate. Olds College is  
offering a 26 week program designed  
to prepare participants for entry level  
employment in the reclamation in-  
dustry, primarily oil and gas facili-  
ties. Call 1-800-661-6537, ext. 4677.  
awna

## 09 CHILD CARE

DO YOU NEED childcare over the  
Christmas holidays or into the year  
2000? Can provide care before and  
after school hours and transportation to  
and from school. Phone Val at 335-  
8704. 37-21

## 10 COMING EVENTS

HORSE BREEDERS, and Owners  
Conference, Capri Centre, Red Deer,  
January 7 - 9, 2000. North America's  
Premiere Horse Conference. Fifteen  
Internationally recognized speakers.  
Topics: nutrition, health care, train-  
ing, reproduction, transportation,  
business. Cost \$75. Contact: Horse  
Industry Section, Alberta Agricul-  
ture, 403-948-8538 Airdrie; 780-415-  
6107 Edmonton. awna

## 13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JOURNEYMAN mechanic wanted.  
Apply at Ron's Automotive Repair or  
phone 335-8784. 36-31

EXPERIENCED cook required. Ap-  
ply to Peter at Macy's Restaurant  
(Didsbury). 335-3390. 36-21

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN or 3-4  
year apprentice, FORD experience pre-  
ferred, but not essential. Apply to Moun-  
tain View Motors, Box 850, Didsbury,  
AB, T0M 0W0, or call Mike at 335-  
3396. 37-21

## 13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**OLDS  
COLLEGE**

TEMPORARY POSITIONS  
MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Marketing and Communications Department at Olds College has two  
temporary positions available. The term of employment for both positions  
is from January 17 to June 30, 2000, with the possibility of extension.

### PROJECT COORDINATOR/ GRAPHIC ARTIST

Competition #99143A

Coordinates and manages all aspects of production projects including  
budgeting, design, development, production, printing and delivery. This  
position is the key liaison between contractors and internal clients for each  
production project. Responsibilities would also include some graphic  
design and layout for in-house produced print and electronic promotional  
materials.

Professional requirements for the position include a post-secondary educa-  
tion in marketing, communications, graphic arts, desktop publishing or  
visual communications and a minimum of three years of related work  
experience. The incumbent will be a team player with significant experi-  
ence in dealing with a variety of clients and contractors in all aspects of print  
design and production. Strong communication and organizational skills and  
the ability to anticipate and pay careful attention to detail are required.

### COPY WRITER - PROMOTIONS AND ADVERTISING

Competition #99144A

Coordinates and conducts all aspects of research, data gathering, writing  
copy, obtaining quotes, releases, proofing, editing and approvals for a  
variety of Olds College advertising and promotional materials.

Professional requirements for this position include a post-secondary educa-  
tion in advertising and public relations, marketing, communications or a  
related discipline focusing on marketing copy writing. A minimum of three  
years of work experience in development and writing for advertising and  
promotional materials related is required. The incumbent will be a team  
player with strong communication and organizational skills and the ability  
to anticipate and pay careful attention to detail.

Interested applicants are invited to submit a resume *quoting the appropri-  
ate competition number* by January 4, 2000 to:

Human Resources  
4500 - 50 St., Olds, AB T4H 1R6  
Fax: (403) 556-4794  
Employop@admin.oldscollege.ab.ca  
www.oldscollege.ab.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for interviews  
will be contacted.

EXPERIENCED HEAVY TRUCK  
technicians. Cat and Cummins dealer  
has immediate openings for journeymen.  
Dealership experience preferred.  
Apply to: P.O. Box 1829, Whitecourt,  
AB, T7S 1P5 or fax 780-778-3870.

CHRYSLER DEALERSHIP requires  
two 4th year or licensed technicians  
with Chrysler experience. We provide  
excellent payplan in team oriented  
workplace. Fax resume immediately:  
403-678-5208. awna

## 01 ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEASON'S GREETINGS to all Alber-  
tans'. Happiness, good health, prosper-  
ity for 2000 and beyond. Alberta So-  
cial Credit Party leader Robert  
Kratchmer 780-842-2927; President  
John Torringa 780-963-4378. awna

## 04 AUTOS

FOR SALE: 1988 Ford Ranger. Call  
Neil at 335-2375. 36-21

FOR SALE: 1989 Ford 250 4x4  
supercab, 460 motor, dual fuel. Excel-  
lent running condition. Asking \$6,000  
or best offer. Phone 556-6542 or 335-  
6201. 38-41

'99 BLAZER - silver. Interested in tak-  
ing over a lease? Call 335-8926. Leave  
message. 36-11

CREDIT PROBLEMS? Need a vehi-  
cle? If you have a job and down pay-  
ment - No credit refused! Cars On  
Time, Edmonton 403-440-2703 or toll  
free 1-800-831-4129. awna

WANT TO SELL your 1994 or newer  
4 X 4 truck or sport utility? We buy  
clean low/average mileage 4 X 4 trucks  
and sport utilities. Nafta Trading 1-  
800-791-8120. awna

## 07 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PROVINCE-WIDE CLASSIFIEDS.  
Reach over 1 million readers weekly.  
Only \$169. + GST (based on 25 words  
or less). Call this newspaper now for  
details. awna

## 07 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SAWMILL AND BACKHOE business  
for sale. Trucks, backhoe, bobcat,  
trailer, miscellaneous tools and 3 phase  
sawmill. Letter of Timber Guarantee  
included. 1-780-649-3999, Greg  
Beeson. awna

TRAVEL BUSINESS (home or com-  
mercial based). Full training. Ongoing  
support. High commissions. Travel  
perks. Be your own boss. Internat  
Travel (Calgary) 1-888-543-8844.

GREAT CANADIAN Dollar Store  
franchise opportunity from \$65,000,  
including stock. Member of Canadian  
Franchise Association. #302 - 31 Bas-  
tion Square, Victoria, BC, V8W 1J1.  
Fax 250-388-9763. Website:  
www.dollarstores.com. awna

50 SEAT FAMILY restaurant, 40 min-  
utes N.E. of Edmonton. Very clean,  
quality equipment, established client-  
ele, low rent. \$220,000. annual sales.  
Must sell! \$85,000. 1-780-363-3888.  
HOCKEY TEAMS, curling clubs, etc.  
Could your team use a couple of thou-  
sand dollars? Opportunity limited! Call  
or fax today for information! 204-467-  
5830, fax 204-467-9026. awna

UP TO \$30,000. or more per month.  
Canada's fastest growing concept in  
this billion dollar industry will be open-  
ing stores in your area. \$117,000. turn-  
key. Toll free 1-877-266-8768. awna

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 13 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**HERITAGE FAMILY Services** is accepting resumes for the following positions: Casual workers - Olds Short Term Intervention Home. \* Experience working with youth with behaviour problems would be an asset. \* Degree or diploma in the Human Services field is required. Foster Parents - Rocky Mountain House. \* Familiarity with Aboriginal culture an asset. Applicants must submit to a criminal record check and a child welfare check. Please submit resumes to: Human Resources, Heritage Family Services, 300, 4825 - 47 St., Red Deer, AB, T4N 1R3. Fax: (403) 343-9293. 38-3t

**VACUUM TRUCK OPERATORS.** Jade Oilfield Service Ltd. requires experienced operators for Alberta and Saskatchewan. Competitive salary with benefits. Qualifications: Class 3A vacuum truck and/or drilling rig experience. Mechanical knowledge of heavy truck/equipment. Ability to be away from home for up to 3 weeks. Fax resume with references to 306-778-3305. awna

**CITY OF WETASKIWIN** requires full-time recreation facility operator. Competition #26-99. Deadline January 14, 2000. Send resume to: 4904 - 51 St., Wetaskiwin, AB, T9A 1L2. Attention: Shelley. awna

**REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY - 2 full-time positions.** \$5 Above average salaries. One for Edmonton Sand Pit Operation. Will train the right person with tractor or farm experience and other position for Edmonton Thoroughbred Horse Breeding Operation. Previous experience with Thoroughbreds or in the horse industry a benefit. Fax resume in confidence to 780-470-2348. awna

**THE CANADIAN Scholarship Trust** Plan requires people in your area to market the R.E.S.P./Canada Education Savings Grant. Excellent employment opportunity. Fax resume to: 403-284-5638 or 780-465-4812. awna

**PARTS PERSON** required for short line farm equipment dealer. Salary based on experience. Fax resume to: Brooks Farm Centre, Brooks, Alberta, 403-362-8414. awna

**BED TRUCK OPERATOR** required with minimum 2 years oilfield hauling experience for full-time position in the Whitecourt area. Class 1, driver's abstract, safety tickets and references required. Complete benefit package offered. K-Lynn Trucking Ltd. Phone 780-778-4615. Fax 780-778-5415. awna

**CANMORE GARDEN MARKET** IGA has positions available for Department Head in meat department, deli and grocery. Bakery positions also available. Please send applications to: Pat Roach, #2, 950 Railway Ave., Canmore, AB, T1W 1P4. awna

**REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY!** For oilfield construction and maintenance company. Dispatcher; Q.C. Clerk; Safety Manager. Experience only need apply. Good remuneration. Good benefits. Steady work. Fax 780-858-3795 or phone 780-858-3794. awna

**ALBERTA BASED instrumentation contractor** is currently accepting applications for instrumentation technicians. Candidates must have strong pneumatic and electronic instrumentation background. Instrument installation and tube bending skills are also essential. Employment opportunities are available in variety of field offices throughout Alberta and northern BC. Please fax resume to: Pyramid Corporation 780-955-3032. Attention: Human Resources. awna

**BRANDON BASED Service Manager** required for New Holland dealership with twenty service personnel. Responsible for the day-to-day direction of the department you, have a Warranty Administrator, Service Writer and Shop Foreman for support staff. Benefits package included and advancement within our group of six Manitoba based New Holland dealerships is available for those who excel. We are looking for a people person with motivational skills and pleasant personality. Please direct resume or questions to: C.D. (Dale) Shepherd, General Manager, Mazer Implements, 1908 Currie Blvd., Brandon, MB, R7A 5Y1. Phone 204-728-2244. awna

**FORD PARTS MANAGER** required. Interior of BC dealership. Must send resume to: Lakecity Ford, 715 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC, V2G 1M9. 1-800-668-3994. awna

**TONG OPERATORS NEEDED.** Rig experience necessary. Edcon Power Tong Services Ltd., Lac La Biche, Alberta. Phone 780-623-4519, Conrad or Ed. awna

## 15 EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

**GENERATOR LIQUIDATION SALE.** 2500 watt. Honda 6 hp engine, Meccalte alternator. Heavy duty construction grade. Safety shut down, circuit breaker, electronic ignition. Limited quantities. \$850. 306-242-7644. awna

## 16 FARM MACHINERY

**INTERNATIONAL TRACTOR** for sale. B-275, diesel. Comes with 5' mower, cultivator and blade. Call Mark at 335-4731. Asking \$6,000. 36-1t

## 17 FEED AND SEED

**BUYING:** Heated or light feed grains. Barley, oats, wheat, peas, chickpeas and sample canola on farm pick-up. 1-877-250-5252 Westcan Feed & Grain. awna

**FOR SALE** round alfalfa and grass mix hay, also straw. Buying good hay and straw. Delivery available. Phone 780-349-5067. awna

**ROUND HAY BALES** for sale. \$24. Self unloading. We deliver. No Sunday calls please. 403-843-6380. awna

## 18 FOR RENT

**DIDSBURY MANOR**  
1706-22 Ave.  
3 Bdr. Townhouses  
Private Yard,  
W/D Hookups, \$600/mth.  
Call 335-4762

**FOR RENT:** Two bedroom apt. close to downtown. \$575, includes utilities. \$575 DD. No pets please. Three bedroom house on large lot. Newly renovated. \$650 plus utilities. No pets. Centrally located. Call Daphne at 335-8930. 37-4t

**LARGE ONE BDM** self-contained basement apartment available Jan. 1. \$375 month, includes utilities. \$200 DD. Phone 335-9168. 36-1t

**WELL-KEPT FIVE bedroom house** in Carstairs. Washer/dryer, fridge, stove. \$850 month plus utilities. \$700 DD. Large yard. 839-2041 or 839-3932. 37-2t

**FEMALE ROOMMATE** wanted. Please call Barb at 335-2348 after 6 p.m. or leave a message anytime. 37-2t

**HOUSE** in country for rent. Zella area. Four bedroom complete with stove, fridge and garage. Available Jan. 1, 2000. If interested call (403) 289-3101. 36-1t

## 19 FOR SALE

**FOR SALE:** Loveseat, new, \$400. Sofa and chair, used, \$125. Noma snowblower, \$80. Call 335-1998. 36-2t

**WHIRLPOOL FRIDGE** with water and ice dispenser, 32 1/2" w x 76" h. Excellent condition. Wardrobe, 31" w x 72" h. Antique stereo with records. 1993 Mercury Topaz. Braun Food Processor. 335-4771. 36-1t

**ONE SET OF tire chains** that fits up to 235-R85-16 tires. Please call J. Feenstra at 335-3597. Asking \$145. 37-2t

**SAWMILL** \$4895. Saw logs into boards, planks, beams. Large capacity. Best sawmill value anywhere. Norwood Industries, manufacturer of sawmills, edgers and skidders. Free information 1-800-566-6899. awna

**BROOKS & DUNN** and Lonestar Premier Tickets: April 27 in Edmonton or April 28 in Calgary. From \$99. each. These tickets are for rural Alberta fans only. Call Just Tickets 1-800-304-4321. awna

**WE KNOW HEAT!** Heatmor stainless steel outdoor wood furnaces. When only the best will do. Backed by our 10 year warranty. Call Harris Custom, 780-892-3224. awna

**60' X 100' X 14' FARM shop**, straight wall, galvalume cladding, \$28,000. Coloured cladding, doors, windows, labour and freight extra. Master-Craft 2000 Ltd., 1-800-822-1836; Calgary 1-403-269-4117. awna

## 26 LIVESTOCK FOR SALE

**1999 BISON** heifer calves. Call 1-780-957-3954. Ask for Jack. awna

**CHICKS, CHICKS, CHICKS.** Over 80 breeds of Chickens, Exotics, Turkeys, Waterfowl. For a free colour catalogue call 1-888-698-3965. Rochester Hatchery. awna

**BISON:** 15 top quality bred heifers, \$5000, and 30 seven year old bred cows, \$4500. Also six excellent breeding bulls, \$2500. 780-986-4022. awna

## 27 LOST AND FOUND

**ONE CHAROLAIS-cross heifer** with yellow eartag. Weighs 600 lbs. Neapolis area. Phone 335-4066. 36-2t

**BLACK GERMAN Shepard cross Lab.** Purple collar. Very friendly. Lost in Harrold area. 556-2984. 36-1t

## 28 MANUFACTURED HOMES

**\$1,000. CASH BACK** when you buy a new 1216 sq. ft. home in Parkland Village. Plus \$3,600. site rent incentives. Own new for less! 780-962-0403. www.parklandvillage.com. awna

**GET YOUR XMAS bonus early.** Get a home from Alberta Custom Homes and save a bundle. Clearing all homes. We're by Woodys RV, Red Deer, 1-800-347-5590. awna

**WESTALTA OFFERS** up to \$5,000. cash back O.A.C. plus: order now and we'll hold the prices at 1999 levels so you can save even more! Call 1-888-937-8111 today. awna

**ACT NOW.** Massive Liquidation Sale on all inventory. Prices slashed. Delivered anywhere in Alberta. Call Ridgewood Homes for full details, Red Deer, 1-800-797-5714; Calgary, 1-800-797-5717; Edmonton, 1-780-470-5660 (collect). awna

**2000 MODELS** on display. Selection of 16 wide and modulars. New floor plans and decor. Immediate delivery or spring of 2000. Price guarantees. 1-800-463-0084, Jandel Homes. awna

**WARM UP** your winter with a free wood burning or gas stove with your purchase of any new stock SRI Home from Cross Country Homes, 1-800-470-5444. awna

## 29 MISCELLANEOUS

### Specials On HOT TUBS & SATELLITES

All sizes of hot tubs & satellites including 18" RCA VCII + Boards & Programming

**Rip Van Winkles**  
Olds 556-6616

10-yr

**ATTENTION! TOP OF the line treadmills.** Industries best warranty. 37 years in business. Flaman's, Innisfail. Bus: 227-2711. Cell: 357-6949. 37-2t

**SNEED MONEY\$** call 780-452-5858. Immediate approval. Debt consolidation, farm, acreage, city, home and mobile purchase. Interim financing. Consolidated Mortgages Ltd. Members of BBB. awna

## 31 NOTICES

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

Estate of **Garnett Howard Brown**, who died on **November 24, 1999.**

If you have a claim against this estate, you must file your claim by January 22, 2000 and provide details of your claim with:

**Vernon E. Good**  
Barrister & Solicitor  
Solicitor for the Personal Representative  
at 2nd Floor,  
2012 - 20th St.,  
Box 1027,  
Didsbury, AB T0M 0W0

If you do not file by the date above, the estate property can lawfully be distributed without regard to any claim you may have. 36-2t

**JIM MOLENAAR** is not responsible for any debts incurred by Tammy Molenaar/ Weber as of October 8, 1999. 36-1t

**STOLEN:** 2 HORSES from Lakeside Feedlot. Bay Gelding 15HH, approx. 1200 lbs., white saddle sores both sides. Sorrell Gelding 15.3HH approx. 1250 lbs. Both have two back white socks, blaze on face. Anyone with information please notify Chris Sparrow, Lakeside Feeders, 403-362-3326.

## 33 PERSONALS

**DIET! LOSE weight like crazy!** Inches and cellulite will disappear. All natural, 100% safe. Call 24 hours: 1-800-411-5493. awna

## 34 PETS

**ARTHRITIS AND DOGS.** New anti-inflammatory herbal relieves joint pain without drugs or side-effects. Remarkable relief of symptoms in weeks. Stop your dog's suffering. 1-800-825-8221; alpinehealth.com. awna

## 36 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

**EASY CASH** for your used R.V. Instant and hassle free. (1984 or newer). 403-291-1203 (call collect and save). Majestic RV World, 2612 - 26 St. N.E., Calgary. awna

**TOP DOLLAR PAID** for late model RVs. We will pay you immediately for late model, good condition, clean RVs. Woody's RV World, Red Deer, 403-346-1130, 1-800-267-8253. awna

## 36 RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

**REC VEHICLES** Top Dollar paid for used RVs (clean & good condition) Complete parts & service (service & warranty to all makes and models). New & used RV sales. RV Hail Damage Repair Specialists. Complete repair and parts service for horse and stock trailers. Phone for estimates. OLDS Leisure Products Ltd. 556-7200.

## 39 SERVICES

**WILL DO** fiberglass and plastic repairs on truck toppers, tractor parts, equipment parts, snowmobile and quad parts. Call George evenings and weekends at 335-8412. 36-4t

## KIDS CAN SEW!

Fun and easy sewing lessons for kids aged 8 and up. Classes begin week of Jan. 10. Daytime classes available for homeschoolers. For more info phone **Mel Terpstra** at 335-3527. 36-2t

**CRIMINAL RECORD?** Canadian pardon seals record. U.S. waiver removes risk of arrest, deportation, property confiscation. Canadian/U.S. immigration agents. 1-800-347-2540. Uncontested Divorce? Separation Agreements? Incorporation? Fast, simple, inexpensive. 1-800-320-2477. awna

## 43 TRAVEL

**XMAS AT BIG WHITE** - from \$99/night, deluxe and luxury ski condos, studio - 4 bedroom and loft, ski in/out, hot tubs. Early bird - Dec. 3 - 16. From \$52/night. 1-888-676-9977 or www.condosunlimited.com. awna

**KIMBERLEY BC** New Slopeside Ski and Golf Chalets. 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms with loft, hot tubs, fireplaces, garages. Sales 1-877-5-CHALETs. Rentals 1-877-600-8001; www.copperspringchalets.com; www.northstarchalets.com. awna

**TIMESHARE REALES.** To buy, sell or rent worldwide. World's largest reseller. ERA Stroman since 1979. Buyers call 1-800-613-7987. Sellers call 1-800-201-0864. Internet: www.stroman.com. awna

## 44 WANTED

**WANTED RESTAURANT.** With/without property. Purchase or lease. I'm not an agent. Prefer private. Respect to: receivers, realtors, hoteliers, bankruptcy. Fax 305-832-4635. E-mail: jimmysbeachbar@hotmail.com. Write: J McLean, 141-6200 McKay, Suite 195, Burnaby, BC, V5H 4M9.

**WANTED:** (Will pay cash) backhoes, farm tractors with loaders, dozers, excavators, wheel loaders, motorgraders, forklifts, cranes, mobile sawmills. Any condition dead or alive. 250-758-5314 or call collect. awna

The Didsbury  
**REVIEW**  
SPORTS CLASSIFIEDS  
FACES BUSINESS  
  
**A wealth of community information!**



# The Program

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EVENTS



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DIDSBURY

#### Christmas Mass

St. Anthony's Catholic Church Christmas Eve Mass in the Multi-Purpose Room at 8 p.m. on Dec. 24.

#### Live Nativity

"Our Gift to You" The Redeemer Lutheran Annual Live Nativity will be held Dec. 21-23 at 7:45 p.m. each night at the Redeemer Lutheran Church (corner of 1500 and 23rd St.) Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall immediately following the event.

#### Monthly Meeting

Didsbury Show and Shine Monthly Meeting will be Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at Didsbury Inn. New members welcome.



### DIDSBURY

#### Lights Tour

Come and enjoy the wonder of the lights on the Didsbury Lions Bus. Tours leave Victoria Square Mall on Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Approx. two hours long. Cost is \$5 per person. Tickets purchased at Aurora Travel. First come - first serve basis.

#### Get Acquainted

Everyone welcome to a get acquainted reception and tea to meet our local medical practitioners to be held Jan. 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the 5-0 Centre (2500 15th Ave). Sponsored by the Rosebud Health Foundation.

## ONGOING EVENTS

### CARSTAIRS

#### RECYCLING DEPOT

Carstairs Lion's Recycling Depot is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

#### CARSTAIRS T.O.P.S.

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly) welcomes new members. Meetings 7 p.m. Monday evenings at Carstairs Church of God. For info call Jean 637-3753, Darlene 946-4369 or Natalie 337-2351.

### DIDSBURY

#### HALL WALKING

Adults are invited to walk in the Westglen School corridors from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., Monday through Thursday for fun and fitness.

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

General Meeting-Second Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. meeting 335-3265 RSVP

#### DIDSBURY TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly! Come and join us every Wednesday evening. For more info call Bev at 335-9803 or Kirsten 335-3370.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Didsbury Environmental Advisory Board meets once every two months at the Town Office. For info, call Wes at the Town Office at 335-3391

#### TOY LIBRARY

Kidding Around Parents Club Toy Library: As of July 1, open Saturdays 10-11:30 a.m. and Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m., at the Anglican Church Hall basement 2037 - 24 Ave. New members always welcome. Linda at 335-5868. Will be closed Dec. 18 to Jan. 18.

#### AA

Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Fridays 8:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, Didsbury, 20 Ave. and 21 St. For information call Roxanne at 335-8322 or Rick at 335-9525.

#### TIME OUT

Mom's Time Out and Dads Too. We meet Monday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (excluding holidays) Nominal babysitting fee. Redeemer Lutheran Church. Ph. 335-9928.

#### KING HIRAM LODGE

King Hiram Lodge #21 has its regular meetings at 8 p.m. every 2nd Tuesday of the month. For info, call Hans Lucas at 337-2250.

#### O.E.S. MEETING

St. Hilda Chapter #27 O.E.S. has its regular meetings at 8:00 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday of the month. For info, call Marge Stecker at 335-4281

#### SONS OF NORWAY

Sons of Norway meets the 4th Monday of every month at 8 p.m. at Evergreen Centre in Olds. All welcome. Call 556-2401 or 337-2037 for more information.

### DIDSBURY

#### DIDSBURY MUSEUM

Everyone is welcome. We have lots to see, take a look back in history. Donations are always welcome. Admission is \$2/adults and children and members free. The Museum is open on Wed., Thurs. and Fri. from 2-5 p.m. weekly and 2-4 p.m. on Saturdays during July and Aug. We're located at 2118 - 21st Ave. For more info, call 335-9295 during office hours.

#### RECYCLING DEPOT

Didsbury Lions Recycle Centre open Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Accepting newspaper, office papers, magazines, junk mail, plastic milk jugs (please clean). Phone 335-8193. Use outside bins.

#### CASH BINGO

Didsbury Elks Cash Bingo every Tuesday. Doors open 6:00 p.m., Nickel Bingo at 6:45. Regular bingo at 7:30 p.m. Didsbury Elks Hall.

#### LIONS

Lions Handi Bus in town service Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Wheelchair accessible Call Lloyd Kenyon at 335-2363.

#### PLAYGROUP

An educational and social program for children 3-5 years is now accepting registrations for Sept. To register or for info call Cherrie at 335-8039 or 335-8818.

#### INFORMATION

Mountain View La Leche League, a group which offers information and support for breastfeeding mothers. We also meet the 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month. Phone 335-8864 or 335-2331 for information and meeting location.

#### BEAVER'S

Beaver's Monday 7 - 8 p.m. at Eldon Foote Hall. Kids 5 to 7 years old, boys and girls welcome.

#### OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

Just Done For Fun out of school care program runs each school day at Ross Ford. For more information call 335-8168.

#### AL-ANON

Al-Anon meetings for families of alcoholics held every Friday. For more info call 335-3146 or 335-9787.

#### BRIDGE CLUB

Mountain View Bridge Club meets every Wednesday from 7-10 p.m. at the Masonic Star Hall, 2037-21 Avenue, Didsbury. All bridge players welcome! For more info: 335-8375 or 638-2757.

### DIDSBURY

#### SUPPORT GROUP

ADD/ADHD Support Group. For parents and families dealing with attention deficit disorder. For more info call Sheree 335-8612.

#### GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS

Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in education room (lower level) at Didsbury Hospital.

### CREMONA

Al-Anon meetings for families of alcoholics held every Sunday. For more info call 337-2331

### LONE PINE

#### T.O.P.S.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets every Friday at 9 a.m. at Lone Pine Hall. For information call Doreen at 335-4514.

### OLDS

#### MEETING

Adoption Support Group of Olds and area meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For more information contact Susan at 335-8540.

#### PUBLIC SPEAKING

Join the Mountain View Presenters (MVP) Toastmasters Club in Olds. Meetings every Tuesday at Olds College, Room 108, at 7 p.m. starting September 9. For further info, call Judy Dahl at 556-7119 or Malissa at 556-8520.

#### SUPPORT GROUP

Fibromyalgia Support Group 4th Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Deer Meadow School, Olds. Contact Mel Terpstra 335-3527 for info.

#### A.D.D. SUPPORT

Learning Disabilities Association. Support, information, workshops, seminars, resource materials, films and tapes. Meets last Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. in Room 116 at Deer Meadows School in Olds. Contact Sam at 556-7614 eves. or Susan 335-3174

### SUNDRE

#### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Wednesdays, 8-9 p.m. in the basement of the Anglican Church. Ron 638-2736.

#### ALA TEEN

Ala Teen, Sundre United Church Basement, Wednesday 7:00 p.m. More info 638-3277.

#### AL-ANON

Al-Anon, Wednesdays. For more information call 638-3277 or 335-9787.

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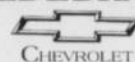
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# Canadian Health care spending is on the rise

According to projections released Dec. 16 by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), spending on Canada's health care system is expected to reach \$86 billion in 1999, an increase of 5.1% from the \$81.8 billion projected for 1998.

CIHI's projections for 1998 and 1999 largely reflect planned increases in spending by provincial governments," explains Dr. John Horne, a health economist and advisor to CIHI. "In terms of how we spend our health care dollars, hospital care remains the leading category of health expenditures, although its share of the total has steadily declined since the mid-1970s. However, projections show that the sales of prescribed and non-prescribed drugs are consuming an increasingly larger share of total health expenditure, replacing spending on physician services as the second largest category."

The projections are from CIHI's latest report, National Health Expenditure Trends (1975-1999), which provides an overview of health care spending trends from 1975 to 1997 and projections for 1998 and 1999. The report draws upon data compiled from CIHI's National Health Expenditure Database, Canada's most comprehensive source of information on health care financing and spending.

## Total Health Expenditure - trends:

Canada spent an estimated \$78 billion on health care in 1997, an increase of 3.1% from 1996. Expenditures are projected to rise by 5% in 1998 and by a further 5.1% in 1999. The average annual rate of growth of total health care spending declined from 11.1% between 1975 and 1991, to 2.6% between 1991 and 1996.

## Total Health Expenditure - per capita:

Total health care spending per person in Canada was an estimated \$2,598 in 1997 and is expected to reach \$2,700 in 1998 and \$2,815 in 1999. Among the provinces, spending per person was highest in Ontario and British Columbia in 1997, at \$2,746 and \$2,728, respectively. The three prairie provinces occupied third to fifth places, followed by the Atlantic provinces and Quebec.

In 1999, based on current projections, per capita spending will be highest in Manitoba at \$3,025, followed closely by expenditures in Ontario (\$2,989) and Saskatchewan (\$2,950). The lowest expenditures per capita are projected to be in Prince Edward Island (\$2,536) and Quebec (\$2,453).

These figures reflect total health expenditure from both public and private sectors.

Public sector spending includes direct payments by federal, provincial/territorial, municipal governments and Workers' Compensation Boards. Private sector funding consists primarily of health expenditures by households (out-of-pocket) and private insurance firms.

## Total Health Expenditure and economic growth:

CIHI is also reporting projected increases in the ratio of total health expenditure to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), from 8.9% in 1997 to 9.1% in 1998 and 9.2% in 1999. Among the G-7 industrialized countries in 1997 (the latest year for which comparable data are available), Canada continued to rank fourth in the ratio of total health expenditure to GDP after France, Germany and the United States which had the highest ratio (13.9% in 1997).

The GDP is the value of all goods and services produced in Canada. The health care spending to GDP ratio is an indicator of the extent to which the nation's resources are used in health-related activities.

## Total Health Expenditure - public and private sectors:

In 1997, spending on health care by the public sector was an estimated \$54.1 billion and accounted for 69.4% of total health expenditure. In 1998,

this share is expected to increase slightly to 69.6% and remain at that level in 1999.

At the provincial/territorial level, the public sector share of health care spending varied considerably in 1997, ranging from 84.8% in the Yukon and 91.2% in the Northwest Territories to 68.8% in Alberta and 66.2% in Ontario.

Health care spending by the private sector was an estimated \$23.9 billion in 1997, accounting for 30.6% of total health expenditure. This is projected to decline slightly to 30.4% in both 1998 and 1999. At the provincial/territorial level, Ontario led the 12 jurisdictions in terms of the share of total health expenditure financed from private sources at 33.8% in 1997, followed by Alberta and New Brunswick. Projections indicate that in 1999, Ontario will remain first, followed by New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

## Total Health Expenditure - hospitals, drugs, physician services:

Canadians spent \$25.4 billion on hospital care during 1997. Hospital care is the largest category of health expenditure, accounting for 32.5% of total spending in 1997. This is down from a high of 45.4% of total health expenditure in 1976.

In 1997, for the first time since comparable detailed expenditure data have been compiled (1975), spending on drugs was the second largest category of total health expenditure, overtaking spending on physician services which ranked third. Retail sales of prescribed and non-prescribed drugs totalled \$11.3 billion in 1997, an increase of 9.8% over 1996. The share of total health care spending allocated to drugs grew from 8.4% in the late 1970s to 14.5% in 1997. Drugs are expected to remain the second largest expenditure category in 1999 with a share of 15.2%.

Spending on physician services totalled \$11.1 billion in 1997, representing 14.2% of total health care spending. Expenditure for physician services grew at rates above those for other health expenditures through the mid-1980s with its share peaking at 15.6% in 1987.

Spending grew at below-average rates during the 1990s, leading to a decline in the share of total health expenditure accounted for by physician services. CIHI's projections show continued below-average growth rates for this category, resulting in a further decrease in the share of total health care spending to 14% in 1998 and 13.9% in 1999.

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#### For the Kids

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